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Inter-Arab Affairs

Fahd Message on Al-Ta'if Delivered to Al-Asad

NC1910063789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Conflicting reports have been aired during the past few hours regarding a visit to Damascus by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. While neither Syria nor Saudi Arabia have announced the visit, the Paris-based Radio L'Orient cites high-level sources in Damascus as saying that Al-Faysal made a quick visit to Damascus yesterday, during which he conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Saudi King Fahd dealing with the outcome of the ongoing Lebanese parliamentary consultations.

AFP Reports on Contents

NC1910085089 Paris AFP in English 0837 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, Oct 19 (AFP)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, locked in negotiations with Lebanese MPs [members of parliament] on a Syrian withdrawal, has made a lightning visit to Damascus, Arab diplomats said here Thursday.

Prince Sa'ud, a key member of the three-country committee charged by the Arab League with finding a settlement in Lebanon, went to Damascus for a few hours Wednesday to hand a message from King Fahd to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The diplomats said the message concerned demands by Lebanese Christian MPs that an Arab peace plan be altered to include quarantees that Syria will withdraw its forces from Lebanon according to a clear timetable.

Neither Riyadh nor Damascus officially reported the visit, which came after Christian MPs had prepared a statement on a withdrawal that they said could be appended to the plan drawn up by Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco.

"Prince Sa'ud will give us on Thursday the triumvirate's response to our demands, following his visit to Damascus," a Christian deputy said.

Prince Sa'ud has repeatedly refused to amend the plan, but the influential Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT said Wednesday the committee may issue a communique offering "clarifications" in a bid to assuage Christian concerns. [passage omitted]

Transport Ministers' Council Begins Meeting

JN1810180289 Baghdad INA in English 1735 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 18, INA—The Executive Bureau of Arab Transport Ministers Council today started in Baghdad two-day meetings.

Addressing the opening meeting, Mr Muhammad Hamza, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, said that transport sector plays a vital role in the life of the Arab nation for its prominent role in plans set for promoting present and future economy.

He added that Iraq supports the current meeting to be the strong basis for a new stage of construction and cooperation in various fields of transport sector.

Also speaking at the meeting, Mr Ahmad al-Samawi, chairman of the Executive Bureau said that this meeting would be the springboard for joint Arab action adding that discussions of the meeting would center on finding necessary formulas for completing proposed projects.

High on the meeting agenda are formulas of Arab cooperation in the transport and communications field and gearing up the process of commercial exchange among Arab countries.

The bureau has on its membership in addition to Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Morocco.

Jordan, Egypt Granted Loan for Joint Project

JN1710192489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development agreed today to grant Jordan and Egypt 44.6 million Kuwaiti dinars as an easy-term loan to finance the project for electrical linkage between the two sisterly countries. Jordan's share of the loan amounts to 10.5 million Kuwaiti dinars and Egypt's share amounts to 34.1 million Kuwaiti dinars.

The implementation of the project is expected to begin before the end of the year and the inauguration will take place in 1993. This project constitutes the preliminary stage of linking the Arab East with the Arab Maghreb.

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development also provided 150,000 Kuwaiti dinars to carry out the economic and technical feasibility studies.

Palestinian Affairs

Edward Said on PLO Dealings With United States

JN1610131889 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 7 Oct 89 pp 1, 23

[By Hisham Milhim]

[Excerpts] New York—Dr Edward Said, the well-known Palestinian writer and member of the Palestine National Council, has said it is time the Palestine question was exposed to "self-criticism". Dr Said strongly criticized the PLO leadership' ignorance of American society, failure to confront U.S. pressure, and tendency to be weak in its dealing with Washington, which defends Israeli interests in its dialogue with the PLO. He also criticized the current prevailing Palestinian tendency in the United States to

cooperate with Israeli "brokers" and American Jews to help PLO representatives in their activities in the United States. Dr Said strongly attacked the corruption and failure of what he termed small Palestinian "shops" throughout the United States and said that 'Arafat must visit the United States only when he receives an official invitation from the U.S. Government.

In a comprehensive interview—tinged with sorrow and sometimes anger—with AL-QABAS and the Lebanese paper AL-SAFIR, Dr Said added that the dialogue with the United States must be based on complete, serious, and effective knowledge of American society in relation to U.S. Government policy as well as a correct understanding of the resources available in this country and how to utilize them. [passage omitted]

The following is text of the interview:

[Said] Before we begin this interview, I would like first to make the following remark about the need for self-appraisal. My opinions must be viewed as part of the effort to back the Palestinian stand and the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, I am not speaking as an outsider. I am part of the PLO. I took part in the long struggle which led us to the Algiers declaration. But I am worried because we are beginning to lose the things for which we have sacrificed a great deal. It is this concern which has driven me to say what I want to say. The aim is criticism from within rather than from without.

[Milhim] How do you explain the U.S. Government's request to the Foreign Relations Council to cancel the private closed meeting which was to be addressed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh?

[Said] First, I would like to say a few words about the Foreign Relations Council. This is a private body consisting of influential persons who are interested in U.S. foreign policy. The council publishes a periodical called FOREIGN AFFAIRS and runs a library. It also conducts studies and research work on the management of U.S. foreign policy. The objective of the Cuncil in the United States is more or less like that of The Royal Institute for International Affairs at Chatham House in Britain. It wields big influence.

The Council's members are elected. I was elected in 1983-1984. As a member, I was asked to arrange a Council meeting with Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, who was then member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the PLO delegation in the United Nations. Members are allowed to invite foreign personalities to address the Council in private meetings. The Council's meetings are private and their proceedings are not published. I was the one who arranged the meeting which was addressed by al-Dajani.

I was not asked to arrange the meeting which was to be addressed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, although I am member of the Council and also of the Palestine National Council. This would have been very easy had I been asked to do it or to explain the background of such meetings. But the meeting was arranged by other persons in this country who are associated with the Israeli Labor Party. This stemmed from the general belief among Palestinians in this country about the need to use Israelis to help arrange lectures before U.S. organizations such as the Foreign Relations Council. What the PLO does not understand is that the United States, as a government and as a society, is hostile to us and that dealing with the United States and local organization needs someone who understands how these organizations operate and how to fully utilize available resources. This did not happen. So the U.S. Government canceled 'Abd-Rabbuh's lecture for what he believed were false pretexts to harass Palestinians, and also because he did not know the background to the lecture by Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, who obtained the same kind of visa and addresssed the same audience several years ago, long before the dialogue with the United States, the recognition of Resolution 242, and the declaration of the Palestinian state. I believe the cancellation of 'Abd-Rabbuh's speech was an unjustifiable humiliation of our people.

[Milhim] Whom do you think in the U.S. Government was behind this decision? Was it possible to challenge it?

[Said] It is assumed that the State Department is responsible for that because it issues entry visas for UN delegations. However, it is possible to refute and challenge this decision. 'Abd-Rabbuh could have gone to the Foreign Relations Council and insisted on delivering his speech. He could have requested the help of the Council members. He could have contacted me in my capacity as member of the Council who has the right to call for a meeting by its members. We could have done many things, but he did nothing. This is inexcusable ignorance.

I would like to add that the visits of all known Palestinian personalities who are PLO members to this country, including Nabil Sha'th and others, are carried out completely through those people and in cooperation with the supporters of Zionism and Israel in the United States. So far, nobody has consulted me or Ibrahim Abu Lughod (who is a Palestine National Council and Fatah Revolutionary Council member) about these issues.

[Milhim] You talked about persons linked to the Israeli Labor Party who arranged for 'Abd-Rabbuh's meetings with the Foreign Relations Council, could you be more specific?

[Said] It is Dorora Kass [name as published] who works for Abba Eban, and more specifically works at the Israeli center for peace in the Middle East.

[Milhim] The U.S. Government justifies its acts by saying that it is under the pressure of Israel supporters to halt the dialogue and curtail the PLO's activities in the United States. Hence it takes such measures. Where do the limits of the Israeli pressure end—and specificaly the role of AIPAC (the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee)? Where do U.S. excuses begin?

[Said] It is common knowledge that AIPAC is the Israeli lobby in this country. It is an extremely influential lobbying force and is capable of imposing its will on the U.S. Government. Nevertheless, it is possible to confront it and resist it. I always do that. They have for years tried to prevent me from saying what I want. However, this does not mean that we should go back and give up action. We know what they are doing. This is natural. Their objective is to defend Israel's interests. These interests are firstly, to supply financial aid and provide unlimited political support for Israel; and secondly, to prevent the Palestinians from having their right to self-determination.

This is what AIPAC has been doing for many years. We must be aware of such matters. Actually, I learned 3 weeks ago that AIPAC will launch a wide-scale campaign to halt the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and deny 'Arafat a U.S. entry visa. We are currently witnessing the results of this campaign.

[Milhim] What impact does this measure have on the U.S.-PLO dialogue, particularly as 'Abd-Rabbuh is one of the major Palestinian negotiators?

[Said] My reply is that ignorance is not an excuse. The PLO has been participating in UN activities constantly since 1974. It has had the chance to study the state of affairs in the United States. 'Abd-Rabbuh himself visited the United States four or five times in the past. The question I would like to pose is the following: When will the PLO try to use the resources that are available to it to deal with the United States in a serious and confrontational manner? I would like to repeat the following: The United States is not the great white father. It is not an arbitrator. It is a party to the conflict and supports Israel. Without U.S. support, Israel cannot pursue its barbaric practices, its massacres, and the human violations which we now witness in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In my opinion, it is a tragic mistake to place ourselves at the mercy of the United States and some pro-Israeli elements in this country who claim they are interested in a dialogue between Israel and the PLO. There are many persons, organizations, and institutions in the United States that support Palestinian rights. These forces should be mobilized. Instead of doing this, the PLO, unfortunately, depends on persons who claim to be friends while in reality they have other interests and objectives. These are the brokers and intermediaries between the Palestinian struggle and the U.S. people. I believe this is a gross mistake.

[Milhim] U.S. officials say that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has produced no tangible results. How do you assess this dialogue and and where do you think it is going?

[Said] The dialogue, so far, has revealed to the Palestinians what they already knew. It has revealed to them that in the dialogue, the United States is assuming the role of spokesman for Israel and is defending Israeli interests. I have read the minutes of the meetings. These meetings have not served our interests. When we ask questions about U.S. policy, we do not get replies. Most of the time the meetings have taken place at U.S. request, not ours. We must learn to deal with the United States the same way the Vietnamese dealt with Henry Kissinger in Paris, and the same way the Algerians dealt with the French. This is not a match between a child and an adult. It is a struggle between two parties, between two adversaries, who are involved in a real conflict; one party, the Palestinian people, is struggling for its rights while the other parties, the United States and Israel, are working to suppress Palestinian rights. That's why one must view this issue very carefully and seriously.

The dialogue is based on a complete, serious, and detailed knowledge of American society and its relationship with American policy, a correct understanding of the available resources in this country, and knowing how to mobilize them. For example, as far as I know, we have not embarked on a planned campaign to reveal to the world what the United States is trying to achieve through the dialogue sessions. We should reveal how the U.S. side is expressing, without shame, the Israeli concerns without dealing with any of our concerns. We must reveal this to the press. All that we see in the United States are reports issued by the Americans and Israelis saying that they are not satisfied because the United States is holding a dialogue with the PLO or because the PLO is not responding positively to the U.S. requests. There are no attempts to explain the Palestinian stand to the outside world. I am speaking about this country. They believe that we are a stubborn and silent people who have nothing to say. I believe that this a horrible distortion of the Palestinian stand.

[Milhim] Is this a call to stop the dialogue?

[Said] No. I have always believe that dialogue is a good thing and I support it. I supported the Algiers resolutions. I have always believe in the solution based on two states; I have called for this for years. And this is a firm stand. I believe that in the end we will reach a formula through which the two states and peoples can live side by side on the same land. I completely agree on this. However, I worry because we misunderstand this complicated and difficult situation. And our dealing with this situation is based on weakness. We are incapable of using our stands and achievements represented by the intifadah effectively. This is our mistake. The Israeli and U.S. Governments are our enemies. Logically, what we do must be on the same level of what they do as enemies. We cannot say: Please, speak to us. There is a big difference. Anyhow, we are weaker; we do not have a strategic ally or enough armed forces. We have a brave and creative people who have unlimited commitment to the struggle against the occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. This is our basic resource. In order to use this resource we must have representatives and a representation that reflect this fairly so as to convey this reality to the American arena. And this has not been achieved so far. The two basic arenas of the Palestinian struggle today are the occupied territory and the United States.

Nothing has been achieved in the United States. You have been in New York for 1 week; have you heard any Palestinian voice? Have you seen Palestinian representatives on television? Have you seen any announcements or writings? Have you seen demonstrations? The silence is deafening.

[Milhim] The time has come to ask a question about Palestinian activity in the United States. Why has the United States become an arena where the small Palestinian shops fight among each other over the spoils? This is not beneficial and has no use for us in places like Washington, Boston, San Francisco, and one or two places in New York. Why is this allowed to become an alternative for the tremendous political and national duty—that is, the issue of cleverly and logically presenting the Palestinian cause in the United States—because in the final analysis we will succeed if we do that the right way.

[Said] There is no excuse for this situation. We who live in the United States—and here I speak on my own behalf and that of my colleague Ibrahim Abu Lughod—because we feel totally disgusted by the negligence, corruption, and incompetence of Palestinian performance in this country. Supposedly, as we are told, there is a committee called the U.S. Committee within the PLO. I know that this committee has never met in Tunis. It includes people who have never visited the United States and have no understanding of this complex and powerful society. This is not a police state. In general, it is a democratic state. It has its institutions. For example, our representatives, including Yasir 'Arafat, appear regularly in the media. We know that every politician in the world, even if he occupies the 15th position, has a public relations representative. We do not have such a spokesman. Nobody advises our official representatives on what they are supposed to say and how to say it in light of the complicated reality of the society where U.S. media are active.

There are many institutions in this country, university cities, professional unions, and numerous community sectors which support us completely. However, they have never been mobilized, exploited, or asked to do anything. Everything is arranged between Tunis and Washington behind closed doors. They come here and leave and that is the end of it. Our need for a Palestinian presence in the United States should be coordinated and studied accurately, an intelligent and resistive presence, coordinated and planned for strategically. This presence should be at the forefront of our priorities of activity; otherwise, we will not reap the rewards of our West Bank and Gaza Strip people's brave struggle. Their death will be useless. Here is what the PLO should do: It should organize the U.S. arena and deal with it seriously; otherwise, it will be left to coincidences and individual efforts.

[Milhim] Based on this assessment of the Palestinian facts in the region and inside the United States, what advice can you give to the Palestinian leadership on dealing with the subject of the dialogue with the United States, especially since you do not call for halting it?

[Said] As I said, the dialogue must not stop, and it should be broadened. We must employ pressure—the pressure of the dialogue—in the service of our objectives. For example, as of now the PLO is officially considered a terrorist organization. In light of the existence of this dialogue, we must refuse to hold talks with the United States until our status in this country changes from a terrorist organization to that of a political organization or a national authority. Thus, all factors of give and take, pressure and bargaining must be employed in this case. We simply cannot sit there in Tunis and listen to the U.S. ambassador repeating the Israeli position for us.

The United States is not merely a curious onlooker. It is a party to the conflict and it gives Israel over $4 billion a year. The money which Israel requests to settle the Soviet Jews will come from taxes paid by the U.S. citizen. The PLO has not issued any statement on this subject although it has been known for the past 5 years that the problem of Soviet Jewry's immigration will be resolved through settlement in the West Bank and Gaza. Until now, we have not taken a stand in this regard.

[Milhim] How can we read the U.S. stand toward the Israeli elections plan and the role of the so-called Egyptian points?

[Said] I think the objective is to end the intifadah. There is a difference in political viewpoints between President George Bush's administration and the Likud on how to achieve this. Shamir simply wants to halt U.S. progress on the right to self-determination, but the Americans are eager to have this achieved with the least possible damage. However, they admit the existence of a reality which the Likud denies.

Therefore, the Egyptian-sponsored negotiations among Yasir 'Arafat, Husni Mubarak, and Shim'on Peres are particularly important because they deepen the differences inside the Israeli Government and the gaps that may emerge between the Israeli Government and the United States. On that basis, they are good but not good enough. More is required. What is required is to further publicize the Israeli occupation in the media, through politics, and throughout U.S. society in general.

Therefore, our main task must be to emphasize the illegitimacy of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. This must be our first priority. The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is only possible because of the U.S. aid. This is the simple issue. And, if this is not understood by a larger number of people in the United States, we will never be able to win the tactical and political battles which are now being fought.

There must be two parts to this tendency. The type of pressure and action which was done through Mubarak must continue on the one hand. On the other, this must coincide with a comprehensive campaign in this country to expose the nature of the Israeli occupation and to

outlaw it and make its existence impossible, just as it is impossible now to attempt to propose the racist system, apartheid [preceding word in English], in South Africa as an alternative to the right of the South African people to self-determination.

We must also add that it is impossible for the Israeli occupation to continue as an alternative to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Can someone now write an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES praising the racist and discriminatory regime in South Africa? No. But there are articles published everyday by Israel's spokesmen claiming that the occupation is not that bad and should continue. A few days ago, A.M. Rosenthal (commentator in THE NEW YORK TIMES) called in an article for the continuation of the occupation until all the Arab countries decide to establish peace with Israel. Such positions must be revealed and exposed. We should make it very difficult for things like that to be said in the United States. This is our job here—which we have not performed yet.

[Milhim] Every now and then, newspaper reports mention your name and Ibrahim Abu Lughod's as being among those proposed for participation in a Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel. Can you give us a definite answer on this issue?

[Said] Neither myself nor Professor Abu Lughod have been asked to participate in such a delegation. Nobody has discussed this with us. I know no details and nothing about what is wanted or expected of us. I do not know what was going on in people's heads when our names were proposed, but we were definitely not consulted.

[Milhim] Did the U.S. Government contact you on this issue?

[Said] As I said, nobody has contacted us.

[Milhim] You discussed your worries about losing the gains achieved by the intifadah. Do you feel concerned about the future of the intifadah?

[Said] I am very worried about the future of the intifadah but not because I have any doubts about the will and determination of our people. Our people are flesh and blood after all, however, and I am worried about the torture imposed on our people who are continuing their struggle. I am also worried about their seeing that their torture will be useless, unless we transfer the struggle to the other arena (the United States) where the support, backing, and maintenance of the Israeli fighting against us takes place. I am not optimistic. But of course, I am optimistic in the long run because history is against the Israeli occupation. However, I wonder about the number of victims we will lose along the road of the struggle.

[Milhim] Clearly, you do not believe in a military option against the occupation. But can the Palestinians get rid of the occupation through political and diplomatic activity?

[Said] Yes they can do that, but only if they use all the means provided them. Here, I am talking about the United States. I cannot discuss what is happening in the West Bank because I do not live there. However, if we do not view our task as one of struggle in which all the resources at our disposal are used—the mental, political, moral, and representational—we will have no hope in succeeding because we are locked in conflict with very strong enemies. However, even strong enemies can be defeated, as the intifadah has defeated the Israeli occupation.

Historically, small nations in the Third World have succeeded in defeating very large armies. This is what happened to France in Algeria when the National Liberation Front was defeated militarily but it defeated France politically. The same thing happened in Vietnam when the United States defeated Vietnam militarily but Vietnam triumphed politically. Therefore, we can do the same thing. This is the only way for our struggle. I know the character of our struggle. We face a difficult task and perhaps it is the most difficult task we have faced so far. Contrary to the situation with the French and the Americans, we do not face a normal enemy. We confront Israel's Jews representing the survivors of the holocaust. Therefore, they have a special moral situation. We should understand this situation, appreciate it, and deal with it seriously. In addition, they enjoy the support of the most important military and economic power in the world today. This power is determined to support them, while we have no strategic allies.

In my opinion, the Arab world and Arab policies are less than nothing with regard to our struggle. In these countries, we enjoy no support from the Arabs. The Arabs do not use their moral, economic, and political power in the United States to help us or even help themselves. Therefore, our responsibilities are greater becuse our duties are greater. We can shoulder these responsibilities only through a serious, persistent, and deep commitment to carrying out these duties, through our belief in victory and our capabilities, and through assuring ourselves that no one will carry out these duties for us. We must achieve victory and deserve it. Therefore, we must adopt a new militant spirit. This is the source of my anxiety. I am anxious about the absence of this spirit.

[Milhim] How do you view Soviet positions toward the Palestine question in light of "glasnost," and do you see any worrying signs?

[Said] The Soviet position is part of the Soviet policy based on "glasnost" and on easing the tension of the cold war. As you know, I am not an expert on these matters, but my impression is that the Soviet retreat in general from extending support to its allies in Third World countries covers all fronts. The Soviets have withdrawn from Cuba, Namibia, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan to some extent. All this is part of the new Soviet-U.S. relationship. My impression is that our situation has been weakened by this Soviet policy. I have no doubt that the interests of the two superpowers differ from those of the small nations, which struggle to realize their

right to self-determination. Consider, for example, how successful the Israeli pressure on the United States is. Israel pressures the United States to pressure the Soviet Union into allowing more Jews to emigrate to Israel rather than to any other place. This campaign has succeeded and will cost us much because these Jews want to settle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Therefore, we have to deal with these issues.

[Milhim] How do you view the controversy raised by the question of issuing of a visa to Yasir 'Arafat, and the U.S. position on that issue?

[Said] The argument about whether he will obtain a visa or not is humiliating us as a nation. If I were 'Arafat, I would put an end to this by saying that I would visit the United States only if I were officially invited. But to continue this public comedy about the the issue of visa will harm our people.

Do you remember what happened last December? How often can we do that? We cannot always go to Geneva. The whole matter appears to be a repetition of that same film.

Moreover, we have to understand that the United Nations is a very limited forum in this country. No one cares about it, and its news is published on the last pages of the newspapers and is broadcast as the final item on television newscasts. Here, the United Nations is mentioned only when George Bush or Eduard Shevardnadze delivers a speech there.

'Abd-Rabbuh Responds

JN1610171189 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Oct 89 pp 1, 4

["Text" of statement by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian delegation to dialogue with the United States, in response to remarks by Dr Edward Said, Palestine National Council member, on PLO-U.S. relations—date, place not given]

[Text] I have read Edward Said's interview as published in the international edition of AL-QABAS dated 7-8 October 1989 and I think it useful to make the following observations:

The interview contains criticism, some of which relates to the PLO's role in the dialogue with the United States and even the feasibility of the dialogue itself, while other criticism relates to the method the PLO is using to deal with the U.S. Administration. The "self-criticism" also deals with the national Palestinian role in the U.S. arena. The interview also contained a number of events, some of which involved my name.

Several of these observations stem from a desire to promote and improve the national Palestinian performance, and there is no doubt that objective self-criticism will contribute to the aspired development if it is consecrated as a permanent policy and not a formal seasonal one.

Some of the diagnoses mentioned in the interview regarding the PLO's behavior toward the United States confuse the forms of tactical flexibility to which the Palestinian interlocutor sometimes turns—since this is required to face the U.S. role that is based on a strategic alliance with Israel—a flexibility coupled with solid and inflexible Palestinian adherence to the Palestinian people's national rights, headed by their right to self- determination, independence, and repatriation—and the "incompetence" about which Edward Said is talking. The tactical flexibility in the Palestinian stand, which is based on the Palestine National Council resolutions in Algiers, is aimed at winning over world public opinion, including the American one, and at confusing and isolating the enemy. Professor Edward Said must have known that the questions the Palestinian side posed to the U.S. side, according to the example he gave in his interview on the specific U.S. concept of what is termed the political rights of the Palestinians, were not mere neutral inquiries. Their plain purpose was to confront the U.S. side with specific basic demands, the most important of which are U.S. recognition of the right to self-determination, acceptance of the international conference as a framework for negotiations, cancellation of the U.S. laws against the PLO, and treatment of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Their plain purpose was also to prevent the U.S. side from dragging the dialogue to peripheral issues that cancel out its original purpose.

I do not think any of the Palestinian people were surprised by the U.S. defense of Israeli interests, either during the dialogue or outside of its framework. All PLO factions are well aware that the United States is a party to the existing conflict, that it supports Israel, and that its claims about neutrality or mediation did not and will not succeed in convincing or deluding anyone. Therefore, Professor Edward Said has not come up with any discovery, but has repeated an axiom which our people have known by heart for over 40 years.

The dialogue did not reveal that the United States is acting as Israel's spokesman and defending its interests. This, as I said, was known ages before the dialogue. The objective behind the dialogue was not to discover the relationship between the United States and Israel, but to exert pressure on the United States on the basis of the blazing intifadah, the changes it brought about on the world consciousness (including that inside the United States), and Israel's international isolation and its internal political crisis which began to worsen with the start of the intifadah.

Hence, the objective behind the dialogue was, and still is, to pressure the U.S. Administration into improving its position on Palestinian national rights and the PLO. It also aims to make the U.S. Administration abandon its previous and current stands on and views about the PLO

(considering it a terrorist organization) and to deal with it in a new, positive manner in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine which is committed to defending their rights and interests and leading their struggle until full independence is achieved.

Hence, the dialogue is a new arena for struggle, and because it is so, Israel and AIPAC are launching their campaign to stop the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative have forced the U.S. Administration to open dialogue with the PLO. It certainly tries to use that dialogue in a manner that will benefit it and the interests of its ally, Israel, in order to lessen its crisis and isolation. But, we are fully aware of this. In return, we seek to make the dialogue serve our people's national objectives.

True, we propose tangible proposals to begin negotiations within the framework of the international conference and we pose political questions, but they evade answering them. This proves that they are cornered and reveals their maneuvering and elusion. It does not prove that the dialogue has not advanced our interests. It is easy and simple to halt the dialogue when it appears that it is no longer valuable as an arena for struggle and as an another pressure factor to advance our national struggle.

The invitation extended to me to address the "Foreign Relations Council" in New York was extended officially in writing by the Council's chairman and not because alleged U.S. Jewish mediators, who support peace, have arranged this as claimed by Professor Edward. The invitation was also extended to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz; and Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state.

Professor Edward Said knows fully well that the U.S. State Department's intervention and pressure were behind the cancellation of the scheduled meeting. Therefore, it is naive to expect that Edward's personal role could have stopped that, as he stated in his interview.

To say that members of the PLO Executive Committee, who obtained the same visa as I did, managed to address the mentioned council several years ago only proves that the situation after the intifadah, the Palestinian peace initiative, the beginning of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the proclamation of the state of Palestine, and so on has radically changed from what existed before the intifadah. Therefore, the decision to cancel the speech demonstrates, among other things, that there is a fear of the expansion of Palestinian influence inside the United States. The decision to cancel the meeting and speech did not go without a confrontation, as Professor Edward Said thinks. It was confronted by me through the media. And, at the request of the Palestinian delegation, Clovis Maqsud, the Arab League representative, held a press conference on the subject.

Undoubtedly, it is useful for the Palestinian leadership to "have a full, serious, and effective knowledge of the U.S. society and its relationship with the government policy." But laying down such a condition means cutting all ties and halting dialogue activities by the Palestinian leadership for an indefinite period of time—and this is not what is required to guarantee the usefulness of the dialogue. Leaders of the PLO and its factions are not sociologists specializing in U.S. society, its structure, and its corridors of political decisionmaking. They are not required to be so.

What is required is something completely different. Its most important article is the administration's ability to hold dialogue (dispute) in a manner which serves the interests of the Palestinian national struggle. The idea that the committee entrusted with following up the dialogue with the United States should know the subtleties and details of the U.S. social structure (an enlightened technocrat), etc., was proposed by some U.S. journalists after the start of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was announced. It helped serve the efforts which then hastened and continued afterward to isolate the PLO and its representation of its people and to prepare for giving the Shamir project some kind of credibility by branding the PLO unqualified in the first place to hold a dialogue with the United States. Therefore, it is not qualified to represent its people in the other forums and we should look for alternatives.

Precise knowledge of the issues and factors of the formation of the U.S. political decision should be available to the Palestinian community in the United States with all its powers, institutions, unions, and academic, social, and educational personalities. Neither the PLO Executive Committee nor any committee in Tunis nor elsewhere can deputize for the Palestinian community in this issue—not in the issue of daily struggle—to gain the U.S. public opinion and put pressure on the U.S. Administration to develop its stands on Palestinian national rights.

Raising the topic from the point of view that the problem of dialogue with the United States lies in the absence of detailed knowledge of U.S. society serves some goals which might be contrary to the goals its original proposers had in mind. The solution lies in the hands of the Palestinian community which lives day to day in the U.S. society. They should organize their affairs (including presenting tangible proposals to the Palestinian leadership) where they would put an end to the state of "negligence, corruption, and incompetence" in the Palestinian performance in the United States which Edward Said discussed—and he is right in his description. However, the practical proposals remain a requirement, too, also as part of the pressure spearheaded by the U.S. Palestinian community on the Palestinian leadership to interfere in efforts to end the existing condition and raise the Palestinian status in the United States to a level of effectiveness, activity, and unity required by the valiant popular intifadah.

In other words, what is required is to "Palestinize" the Palestinian community in the United States and not to "Americanize" the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

I do not believe that it is beneficial to give advice along the lines that 'Arafat's visit to the United Nations and the United States should not take place except upon invitation from the U.S. Government. This helps serve the U.S. Administration's policy which does not want brother Yasir 'Arafat to address the United Nations, since this carries many new embarrassments for the U.S. Administration and its biased stands, which are disrupting a comprehensive and balanced solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. As long as there is a need to increase pressure on the United States and seriously attack its policy, then for the U.S. Administration to come up with an invitation is categorized as defeat, or simply waiting at best.

The greatest lesson to be learned from the intifadah is the importance of confidence in our people's ability and organized powers and the necessity of giving free rein to the role of the people, including their communities and various forces wherever they may be to support the intifadah's goals. Every criticism and self-criticism proceeding from this is criticism that serves the process of development away from an exaggerated individualism and concealed extortionism.

Bal'awi, Pelletreau Meet in Tunis 13 Oct

LD1410140889 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1312 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, 14 Oct (TAP)—Mr Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee and representative of the Palestinian state in Tunis, met again on Friday evening with Mr Robert Pelletreau, Jr, the U.S. ambassador in Tunis.

WAFA reports that this meeting, which comes within the framework of the continued dialogue between the PLO and the United States, dealt with the assessment of the course of this dialogue and the possibilities of [words indistinct].

WAFA has learned that the meeting reviewed the new developments in the current political situation in the Middle East, and the moves and efforts exerted for a real progress in the (?project) for peace in the Middle East.

PLO Reacts to Anti-Palestinian Acts in Lebanon

JN1810194089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1813 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Statement by a "responsible Palestinian source;" date not given]

[Text] Over the past 2 weeks the city of Sidon has witnessed a number of dangerous operations in which two Palestinian Red Crescent doctors, an officer, and four noncommissioned officers were assassinated; the Fatah information center in the city was blown up; and a car bomb was detonated at the entrance of 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. More acts of sabotage were also uncovered. These assassinations, explosions, and acts of sabotage were accompanied by the suspect operation of kidnapping two International Red Cross officers holding Swiss nationality. It is clear that this is a planned scheme carried out by agent intelligence services against the city of Sidon and its inhabitants and against the Palestinian presence in Southern Lebanon. It is an extension of the schemes that have been carried out against the Palestinian presence in Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah camps in Beirut.

We wonder: Are these acts a preparation for a war against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon? Has the settling of accounts started at the expense of the Palestinian presence in Southern Lebanon? We ask these questions to sound the alert and to draw attention to what is being prepared against Sidon and our camps in Southern Lebanon. We call on all the nationalist and honest forces in the south and in Lebanon to oppose these schemes and to abort this plot in its early stages. We also call on the masses of our Arab nation to stand alongside our steadfast masses in Lebanon, who are a natural extension of our people's blessed intifadah. Safeguarding these camps is an indivisible part of safeguarding the intifadah and guaranteeing its continuation.

PLO's Al-Najjab Discusses Settlement Process

PM1710141989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 89 p3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab by Muhammad Sadiq in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] We began the interview with a question about the Israeli Government's rejection of the Egyptian 10 points, the peace process, and future political moves at the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

[Al-Najjab] That Israeli rejection did not come as a surprise to us. We had anticipated that. Shamir believes that his plan is acceptable with some minor amendments, and he thinks that since there is approval of some kind then why not complete approval? We do not believe that the Labor Party is serious in pursuing a policy that would fulfill Palestinian rights or open the way for a settlement based on international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Shamir has failed to find any Palestinians to negotiate with and he has failed to convince the world that he has a serious peace plan. The failure of Shamir and his plan will continue. Instead of joining in the game of amendments to the Shamir plan, we strongly put forward the Palestinian peace plan and we believe that there is more scope for that now than before because certain parties which had been waiting to see what would become of the Shamir plan must now act.

[Sadiq] What, in your view, should be the next move?

[Al-Najjab] The PLO should insist on its peace initiative, continue its efforts in preparation for an international conference, and continue its support and aid for the intifadah.

The PLO must now play an active part for the implementation of the Casablanca resolutions. I mean that joint Arab moves should begin at the international level for the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions and the Arab states should put pressure on the U.S. Administration, which is the sole defender and supporter of Shamir's plan and crimes against the Palestinian people.

All the Arab states are requested to adhere to the recent Casablanca resolutions in all their moves. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] Do you support the principle of Palestinian-Israeli dialogue?

[Al-Najjab] We are for the principle of a dialogue between the PLO and the Israeli Government for the sole purpose of preparing for an international conference.

[Sadiq] But the American view is different. For example, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has stated that the purpose of a dialogue would be to discuss Shamir's election plan and ways of implementing it. So it seems that there is a big gap between the PLO view and the U.S. Administration's view on dialogue and its purpose. What do you think?

[Al-Najjab] Yes, what you say about the U.S. view on the dialogue is true. We in the PLO and in Casablanca have taken a clear stand on the question of elections. In other words we made our position clear at the Palestinian and Arab levels. We have accepted the principle of elections provided it is a step in a general comprehensive political settlement, not in isolation from it. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] Why do the Americans reject application of the Namibian example to elections in the occupied territories? Did you discuss that with them and, if so, what was their reaction?

[Al-Najjab] We have more than once addressed that question to the Americans. Their answer was that this is a different matter. They acknowledge the right of self-determination for the Namibian people but not for us. For us they only support local autonomy in accordance with the Camp David formula. The current U.S.-Israeli peace efforts are geared toward marketing the Camp David treaties in a a new attire. They said so themselves.

Although they say that all options are open and all issues and questions could be raised at the negotiating table, they have declared and are declaring their opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. How do they expect us to enter into an open dialogue when they shut the door in advance to the Palestinian right of self-determination. This is an exposed American game that no longer fools anyone.

[Sadiq] So it is a dead end from the beginning, as a result of the U.S. position.

[Al-Najjab] There can be no doubt that the U.S. and Israeli obstinacy is based on some recent developments in the region, the most important being the Lebanese situation, regrettably. That situation has been used to draw attention away from the intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative and it has been used to justify the Israeli rulers' crimes. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] Do you see any possibility of change in the U.S. position in light of new factors and the current U.S.-PLO dialogue?

[Al-Najjab] As you well know, the U.S. position is not new. It could change if the pressure factors change. In 1956 the Americans put pressure on Israel, which withdrew from Sinai and Gaza overnight. The intensification of Arab pressure factors on the U.S. Administration would force it to change its position.

As we said before, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was a gain for the Palestinian people and the PLO but we never had any illusions. The U.S. Administration, having failed in its policy of ignoring and overlooking the PLO, has tried to achieve the same objectives through the method of containing and taming the PLO. That has been their aim in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and outside it, and they have failed in that too.

We must bear one thing in mind, which is that we are for continuing the dialogue but are under no illusions. We must also beware of that negative trend which wants us and the other effectives forces at international level to take the position of simply awaiting to see what might come out of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. The reactivation of Arab and international moves would help considerably in developing the U.S. position or in exposing the real U.S. intentions.

[Sadiq] What about the list of Palestinian names for dialogue with Israel which was reported by some media and said to have been carried by President Husni Mubarak to Washington?

[Al-Najjab] Even those whose list it was supposed to be have announced that it was unfounded. Only the PLO has the right to appoint or name the people who should act on its behalf.

The Palestinian people have paid a high price to protect the independence of their movement and decisions. No Palestinian leader would tolerate the return of any kind of trusteeship over the Palestinian people and their cause. [passage omitted]

Al-Zibri on Syria Reconciliation, 10 Points

JN1410175289 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 12 Oct 89 p 1

[By Rashid Khashshanah]

[Text] Tunis—Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has warned Israel that the Palestinians are capable of shedding the enemy's blood if the enemy continues to kill children, women, and old people in the occupied territories.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN in Tunis, he said that the crazy military campaign against Bayt Sahur and other West Bank cities and villages has surpassed the Nazi aggressions. He urged humanitarian organizations to secure protection quickly for Palestinians inside the occupied territories.

The PLO Executive Committee member proposed three principles to achieve reconciliation with Syria. These principles are that Syria should respect the Palestinian leaderships' national policies that concern the PLO, that it should respect and abide by Arab summits' resolutions on the Palestine question, and that it should respect the freedom of action and movement of the Palestinians in their national struggle.

He criticized President Husni Mubarak's initiative and considered it a blow against the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the Casablanca summit. He said that some Arab parties are seeking to drag the PLO to Camp David. He stressed that the PLO leadership is aware of these maneuvers.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa proposed that the PLO should reactivate its political initiative and call on the preparatory committee of the international conference for peace in the Middle East, which includes the UN Security Council five permanent member states, to meet in implementation of a resolution issued in Geneva last year, in order to forestall attempts to drag the PLO into direct negotiations within the framework of a new Camp David.

He described the development of relations between Israel and the socialist bloc states as an opportunistic step.

PLO's Al-Surani Rejects Habash Statements

JN1410154089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 12 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Cairo—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has talked about the recent statements made by George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], in which he attacked the Egyptian role in the peace process.

Al-Surani told AL-ITTIHAD that these statements do not represent the PLO's viewpoint and that coordination will continue between the PLO and Egypt, which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit tomorrow, Friday, to discuss the response to the five points proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and to coordinate the Egyptian-Palestinian position.

Al-Surani added that Habash's statements will not affect relations with Egypt and are not to be considered a sign of a change in the course of these relations. He said that any change in the PLO's relations with any sisterly Arab state is not a subject of personal whims, but a subject that has to be presented to, and discussed by the PLO in a democratic way.

Al-Surani said: Habash's statements can be understood within the context of the policy adopted by the PLO—that is democracy and freedom to express one's opinion. Habash and the other leaders have the right to express their opinion; but, in the end, the PLO's decision must be respected. The PLO's decision is clear and categorical on the Egyptian role and relations with Egypt.

Al-Surani urged the Arab states and their media institutions to understand this particular feature of the PLO's policy and to understand the real meaning behind any statement made by Palestinians leaders.

Al-Surani said: The PLO cannot, and should not, close people's mouths. The secret of its existence and continuity is democracy, other than which the PLO has nothing else to offer to the Palestinian people.

PLO Officials Criticize U.S. Support for Israel

LD1510134289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1158 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 15 (KUNA)—A number of Palestinian officials vehemently criticised the United States for its entire support to Israel against the legitimate rights of the Palestine people.

In a statement to local daily AL-WATAN, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani said any PLO-Israeli dialogue must be based on Israel's recognition of the PLO, and conducive to an international conference on the Mideast crisis.

The U.S., he added, has been trying to drag the PLO to accept U.S.-Israeli approach ato the settlement of the Palestinian question.

Meanwhile, 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member told AL-ANBA' newspaper that the PLO was quite certain that the U.S. cannot be a mediator in the Mideast conflict, but it accepted to continue with its dialogue with the U.S. expose its totally pro-Israel role.

He noted that the dialogue's outcome was all in favor of the United States, and the PLO should reconsider such course of dialogue.

Speaking to AL-ANBA' also was PLO Executive Committee member Jawid al-Ghusayn who straightforwardly said "it's useless to bet on an American role." The U.S. up to this moment is reluctant to exert serious peace efforts and its major concern is to market Shamir's elections plan, he added.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine told the same paper, Arab material support for the Palestinian uprising is almost "nil."

He also criticised Arab leaders' non-follow up of their decisions adopted in the latest summit in Casablanca, pointing out in particular their failur to put pressure on the UN Security Council permanent members and West-European countries toward convocation of the international conference.

Another statement was [word indistinct] to the daily newspaper by PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab who affirmed that the PLO would not make any concessions toward the Palestinian peace initiative which was adopted by the Arab leaders and gained world-wide support.

Faysal al-Husayni Urges Egyptian Peace Role

PM1910084689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Oct 89 p 4

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in Jerusalem, by Huda al-Husayni; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Huda] It is being said that the intifadah has been escalated because people are fed up with the slow peace process. Is that true?

[Al-Husayni] If people are fed up it is because of the occupation. The intifadah began because we wanted an end to the occupation. Furthermore, when the intifadah began there were no peace programs or plans and no U.S., European, or other interactions. Despite that, the intifadah began, has continued, and will continue and expand, regardless of whether or not political proposals exist. [passage omitted]

[Huda] But the escalation noticeably intensified after Israel's rejection of Egypt's 10 points.

[Al-Husayni] Let us say that Israel has recently tried to wage a battle in an attempt to crush the intifadah. It chose three main pressure points. It chose to put pressure on Gaza, Nabulus, and then Bayt Sahur. Of course the Palestinian answer was: If your aim is to break us we will not be broken; there will be an escalation and we know how to defend ourselves and our towns, both large and small.

The new escalation is part of the general battle aided by Israel's intransigent political hard-liners, but even if there were no plan rejected by Israel, what Israel is doing in Bayt Sahur would still have inflamed the intifadah.

[Huda] Yitzhaq Rabin said that he would crush the Bayt Sahur resistance. Do you believe Bayt Sahur will lose in the end, particularly as the people are unarmed?

[Al-Husayni] If Yitzhaq Rabin has chosen Bayt Sahur as the battlefield, we tell him that the battle will not be confined to Bayt Sahur. He will not be able to crush Bayt Sahur because it will not be alone. The towns, villages, and camps of the West Bank will be part of the battle. That was made clear last week. Bayt Sahur will not be broken. He could starve Bayt Sahur, demolish its factories, kill people, and all the rest, but this is a battle of wills and our will shall not be broken.

[Huda] Are you beginning to feel that it will be some long years before the intifadah can achieve its objectives?

[Al-Husayni] Our original assessment was that the battle would be long, not short, but we notice that the intifadah has shifted us from the atmosphere of the first 15 minutes of the battle to that of the last 15 minutes of the battle. At present I feel that we have even moved from the last 15 minutes of the battle to somewhere near the last 5 minutes of the battle, as far as the atmosphere is concerned. As regards time, it could take a long time. It could take 1, 2, 3 or 4 years. The people, all of us, are capable of standing fast but we are certain about and can even smell the last 5 minutes of the battle.

[Huda] Where will you be at the end of the last 5 minutes?

[Al-Husayni] We will be at the gates of the final Palestinian state.

[Huda] What will that state's geographical boundaries be?

[Al-Husayni] When the PLO accepted resolution 181 at the Algiers [Palestine National Council] session, it accepted the principle of two states. When it accepted Resolution 242, it meant that somehow or other it was accepting a certain concept of borders between us and the Israeli state, something close to the 1967 borders. At any rate, this matter is open to discussion at the negotiating table. What is important is that the Israelis must know that if they wanted to look East then there would be nothing to stop our looking West.

[Huda] What do you mean by that?

[Al-Husayni] The Israelis should not think that our demands begin at the 1967 borders, because if they did they would find that we are entitled to look beyond 1967.

[Huda] The Israelis claim that time is on their side as far as the intifadah is concerned and that the intifadah is beginning to consume itself. Is that true?

[Al-Husayni] On the contrary, we believe that the intifadah is expanding and spreading its roots. [passage omitted]

[Huda] You have mentioned the Nazi occupation of France. Is there a similarity between the Nazi occupation and the Israeli occupation of Palestine?

[Al-Husayni] Occupation is occupation. It is an ugly thing to try to destroy people's will and such attempts must be resisted. The methods may be different but I do not believe that the Israeli practices are less serious than the Nazi cruelty because these practices came after the bitter experience in Europe. They should have learned the lesson of that experience and should not have repeated it, or something like it, in our region. [passage omitted]

[Huda] Some Israelis, especially the settlers, are calling for your arrest and deportation. Do you think Israel might take such a step?

[Al-Husayni] We could expect anything from that Shamir-Rabin combination. The law does not permit them to deport me but it is not unlikely that they would find some point, interpret the law in a certain way, or even in some cases change the law in order to deport Palestinians with whom they are angry.

Our struggle will continue. We do not do our duty because there is no risk of deportation. We do our duty even with the risk of deportation and even if they change the law and try to find a method of deportation. That would not stop our doing our duty as it should be done.

[Huda] Would you refuse to leave?

[Al-Husayni] I would certainly make a considerable effort not to leave my land.

[Huda] Many Palestinian demonstrators and strikers have begun advocating recourse to arms. Have you discussed with the PLO the question of distributing arms inside [the occupied territory], and would such a move be useful?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that careful comparison and accurate calculations would show that the current method produces better results and fewer losses at this stage. When I look at confrontation with the Israeli authorities I see not only the confrontation between the people of the occupied territories and the Israelis, but also the Palestinian people as a whole in the battle. If we look at Palestinian losses during the 2 years preceding the intifadah and at the intifadah losses we will see that our losses have decreased significantly. Let me remind you that in every single Israeli raid on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, for example, we suffered more casualties than we now suffer in a whole month. We are one and the same people and we do not divide our losses. A comparison between our losses before and after the intifadah would show that we have reduced our losses. [passage omitted]

[Huda] On the question of negotiations, you have been mentioned as a member of the delegation supposed to participate in the negotiations. Who suggested this to you: the PLO, Egypt, or Washington?

[Al-Husayni] First, anything said about the formation of a delegation is premature, and in my view it did not come from the PLO or any official Palestinian source. It is just speculation—perhaps chiefly press speculation.

Nobody has talked to me about the formation of a delegation and I do not believe there has been any Palestinian talk, or any serious talk, of forming a delegation. As I said, these are speculations by some journalists or perhaps some politicians here and there.

[Huda] Would you agree to an Egyptian role between you and the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] We would like Egypt to play a positive role in supporting us because it is part of the Arab nation. Egypt should play a role, and our acceptance of that role would depend on its nature. If it is a positive role that would boost our cause then we would accept it, but if it ran contrary to that then we would take a different position. [passage omitted]

[Huda] Have you seen the plan put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Al-Husayni] I have seen it unofficially—in the press, that is—but I have not read or seen the official plan.

[Huda] Do you think the United States is serious about bringing the Palestinians and Israelis together, and if so, why?

[Al-Husayni] Its attitude to the Israeli Government in the coming days will show whether or not it is serious and whether it really intends to wage a genuine battle for peace or just do what it did in the past, whereby if something is approved by Israel, then it is fine, but if not, then the Palestinians would have to consider making fresh concessions.

Of course the Palestinians refused to consider making new concessions in the past and they will not make new concessions in the future. The situation at present shows an absolute U.S. alignment with Israel.

[Huda] Do you believe that the PLO has made a mistake in its dialogue with the United States?

[Al-Husayni] No, I do not believe that the PLO made a mistake. I believe that the dialogue is necessary and that we have gained something from it. What we have achieved is this. Whereas in the past all talk was confined to U.S. pressure on us to agree to go to negotiations with the Israelis with a Palestinian delegation from inside [the occupied territories], now the prevailing principle is that of a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside and the current discussions are about forming such a delegation. That is a step forward which we should insist on, but we should not be content with just that. We should move to develop the dialogue and develop the U.S. position further to make it more in harmony with our own position. [passage omitted]

[Huda] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has proposed that a Palestinian-Israeli meeting be held in Moscow. Are you in favor of a Soviet role in the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] We certainly want more international parties to take part in the peace process because we want an international conference. So any new addition and any new element in pursuit of an international conference would be a move in support of an international conference, which we want and are working for. [passage omitted]

[Huda] There is one problem that you will be facing in the West Bank and the rest of the occupied territories. Israel expects the arrival of 100,000 Soviet Jews by the year 1992. It has already begun preparations for erecting houses for them in the West Bank. How will you tackle or face that problem?

[Al-Husayni] We are in confrontation with Israel. Whenever it has introduced a new method or a new force, whether military, political, or economic, or whenever it has put military, political, or economic pressure on us, the intifadah has proved capable of facing and tackling these pressures in a sound and timely manner. We are capable of dealing with this new pressure method promptly and appropriately. In this connection, work is required not only inside but also abroad, through political pressure and explanation of the issues, and also through contact with these people coming from the Soviet Union, to explain to them the realities of the situation and what they would be facing—and this must be done before, not after, their arrival. [passage omitted]

Sari Nusaybah Interviewed on Intifadah

PM1710140989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Oct 89 p 4

[Interview with Sari Nusaybah, "prominent Palestinian figure," by Huda al-Husayni; place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] Are the Palestinians staging their demonstrations today to declare the start of disobedience, as the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah urged in its statement?

[Nusaybah] We want accuracy. The recent intifadah statement did not include a call for disobedience. It called for a 5-day strike: a 2-day strike, then a rest on Saturday [yesterday], then a 3-day strike. People were asked to stage demonstrations after 1700, but were not asked to stage disobedience. This is because disobedience is both complex and thorny, as it requires favorable conditions in order to apply it objectively. I believe that the disobedience stage has not yet started. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Will the intifadah continue, even if elections are held?

[Nusaybah] That depends on the formula and the balance on the basis of which the elections are held. Like any other people seeking freedom, we are not against the election principle. But we are concerned to ensure that conditions pave the way for the realization of our basic demands, which are not merely elections, but the realization of freedom and independence.

If we assume that the Palestinian leadership has arrived at a conviction that there is a need to initiate via dialogue and negotiation a peace process during which free and democratic elections would be held, certain conditions might still be needed in order to complete free elections which could help in the shaping process being conducted by the Palestinian people to achieve their independence. For instance, the conditions which should be available are: the release of prisoners, an end to the expulsion policy, the evacuation of the Army from populated areas, an end to the collection of taxes, the reopening of universities and institutes, and the granting of freedoms—freedom of expression and communication as well as freedom of assembly and publication and information. If we assume that such conditions will be available—and they must be, in order for the talk of free elections to be both logical and acceptable—then I believe that they will boost the morale of the residents of the occupied territories and urge them to continue their intifadah, which is in the first place nonviolent. It is primarily political, informational, and aimed at achieving their fundamental objective of freedom and independence.

[Al-Husayni] When you say freedom and independence, do you mean by independence an independent state in the occupied territories?

[Nusaybah] By independence I mean the realization of independence in a Palestinian state, that is, of course, alongside, not instead of, Israel, but according to the [Palestine] National Council resolutions. We are now talking about the principle, namely, that we are seeking to achieve freedom in the independent state, that is, as a state alongside Israel and according to UN resolutions. But, of course, we are well aware that there are many things which, were we to discuss them in detail, would mean in practice that the state would not be independent in the absolute sense, but in many respects would depend on issues and relations with its neighbors, especially Jordan, the other Arab states, and, to a large extent, Israel as well. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] At his meeting with the foreign press association Faysal al-Husayni said that if Israel rejects the two-state solution, then the Palestinians will look for a state for them and will then consider Haifa, 'Akko, Jafa, Lod, and Ramallah. I believe you were with him. What did he mean by that? Forfeiting the territories which you consider occupied and heading for these cities?

[Nusaybah] I do not think he meant that. What he actually meant in a broader sense is that if Israel does not

accept the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside it, it will find itself turning into a Palestinian state in the long term.

[Al-Husayni] Israel as a whole?

[Nusaybah] It will in the long term turn into a Palestinian state, in the sense that if Israel does not in the short term relinquish some of what it has occupied of Palestine—and if the Palestinian people are unable to express their national identity on part of the territory—then Israel will obviously find itself turning into a Palestinian state. And by the way, that claim is also maintained by some Israeli professors and thinkers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Did you inside [the occupied territories] discuss Egypt's 10 points, which Cairo stresses are queries and clarifications addressed to Israel? And what is your analysis of them?

[Nusaybah] The 10 points have not been discussed openly among people for a number of reasons, the most important being that there is no room to hold open political discussions under the occupation. And generally I do not believe that the residents of the occupied territories saw the Egyptian points as addressed to them. They considered that the points are queries addressed by Egypt to Israel, thus the Israeli side is called upon to discuss and respond to them. This is why these points have not been discussed in detail here in Palestinian circles. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Will you allow the United States, Egypt, and Israel to decide the type of representation and the nature of Palestinian participation with regard to the Palestinian delegation which will negotiate with Israel, and what if such negotiations lead only to elections?

[Nusaybah] First, if these negotiations lead to elections only, we do not need them. Second, we, of course, do not accept that Israel, Egypt, or the United States—individually or jointly—should select the members of the Palestinian delegation proposed for negotiation. But generally, we masses of the occupied territories—as a result of our confidence in the Palestinian leadership—accept the names and figures which the PLO decides and entrusts with negotiation, not only with regard to the elections alone, but with regard to the peace process in general and with regard to upholding Palestinian national rights. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] At the moment the remaining part of the green line which used to divide Jerusalem into an Arab part and a Jewish part is being eliminated in order to turn it into one city. We know that Israel wants to unify the city and occupy it completely. Will the elimination of the remaining part of that line confirm that unification? And what about Jerusalem's residents?

[Nusaybah] My personal view is that Jerusalem is not subject to negotiation: It is the capital of the Palestinian state, and I would also say it is the Palestinian state's everlasting capital. In my view, no Palestinian has the right to to forfeit or relinquish it as the capital of the Palestinian state and as an integral part of that state. [passage omitted]

London Paper Interviews W. Bank's Al-Tarifi

PM1710150989 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Oct 89 pp 30, 32

[Interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, West Bank Palestinian figure, by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Was it merely a coincidence or was it to do with political factors that you as figures and leaders from the occupied territories came to Cairo after the 10-point plan was proposed and during Rabin's visit to the Egyptian capital?

Al-Tarifi: Many Palestinians visit Cairo for personal reasons and that does not prevent them from meeting with officials. As for the timing, it was just a coincidence, that is all. It was the Israelis who spread the Palestinian delegation question. They said that the reason for the visit was to present a request to the Egyptian Government to put pressure on the PLO in order to get it to accept the 10 points. But all that has been said about that subject is completely untrue. We are in Cairo for personal reasons. True, we have met with some Egyptian officials, but we and the PLO are in the same line and have the same convictions, and we cannot pressure the PLO. In fact the opposite is the case: All the Palestinian figures are united over one position.

AL-HAWADITH: But some names were mentioned and said to be expected to represent the Palestinian delegation to the first declared dialogue with the Israelis.

Al-Tarifi: It was the media services which started to mention names, but that was untrue. This is because there has been no agreement on a dialogue. In fact there has been no agreement on the principle itself. So does it stand to reason that we would start to speak about formalities? It is all speculation!

AL-HAWADITH: May we know more details about your meeting with Shamir?

Al-Tarifi: We live under the occupation. So sometimes we are exposed to summonses. And it happens a lot that I receive a call to meet a military official and then find myself referred to a political official. That was what happened with regard to my meeting with Shamir. The Defense Ministry's coordinator in the occupied territories asked to meet with me, but 15 minutes later he told me I was requested to meet with the prime minister. At the meeting I presented all my convictions, which I believe are in line with the Palestinian position in general, especially as both I and my orientation are known. I am with the PLO and the Palestinian leadership. In fact the PLO was not remote from what was happening. There is a fact in the occupied territory, that

is, all that happens there is done with the PLO's knowledge. Shamir presented his plan and tried to show that he was seeking peace, so I said that what was being proposed was nothing but a process of wasting time. It would have been more proper for the Israeli Government to respond to the peace call after the Algiers conference. I emphasized the Palestinians' fixed principles as well as the fact that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that something new is currently being prepared in view of the sudden move which took place after the stagnation that dominated regional and international conditions concerning the Palestinian issue?

Al-Tarifi: The new thing is that the world, especially the United States, is now convinced that Shamir's plan, which he promoted, has ended. And Rabin admitted that during his recent visit to the United States, when he said we have not found any Palestinian partner in the occupied territories for the Israeli peace plan. After the initiative's failure there was a deadlock until Egypt's 10 points emerged, and these are queries which were addressed to Israel over 2 months ago, but they have not tried to respond to them in the hope that a positive development toward Shamir's proposal may take place. They are queries addressed to the Israelis, not the Palestinians.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Labor Party's proposal concerning its agreement to the land-for-peace principle presented in August?

Al-Tarifi: The Labor Party cannot decide; it is too weak to have influence. There is a national coalition government, so any agreement or view must receive government approval and not be regarded as a mere party proposal. This is because government approval means Likud and Ma'arakh approval. But despite this, the Labor Party's program still rejects the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people's right to establish their state. And there is nothing new the Labor Party can offer, although its stances are more advanced than Shamir's with regard to its acceptance of the land-for-peace principle. The Labor Party has always been for a regional solution that stipulates regional concessions in return for establishing peace—which, in general, does not enjoy any Arab or Palestinian approval.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Palestinian position can be developed to fill any gaps which could be exploited by the Israelis, who are currently besieged by the Palestinian peace plan?

Al-Tarifi: We presented a peace initiative in the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers. It was clear in the acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian state proclamation, and partition Resolution 181. For our part, we have offered all the concessions we can offer. It is now Israel's turn to offer its concessions, abandon its intransigence, and realize that it is dealing with a people. At then it must respect that people's will to name their representatives and determine their fate by themselves. And in Geneva Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] announced his readiness to open a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. What is proposed now is the initiation of a dialogue or preliminary talks. But even that dialogue must receive Arab approval and be held under international auspices so we can eventually secure international legitimacy for a final solution via an international conference. At the Palestinian level, we insist on selecting the Palestinian delegation members from inside and outside [the occupied territories], and we cannot abandon that, that is, confirmation of the unity of the Palestinian people both in the diaspora and inside. What is required now is an Arab position supportive of the Palestinian move—a position that can influence the United States in particular and push it to pressure Israel. This is because the matter now depends on the Israeli response. Then the Palestinian response can be discussed at both the Arab and Palestinian levels.

AL-HAWADITH: But some Palestinian groups inside the occupied territories rejected the Egyptian questions or queries.

Al-Tarifi: I am talking about the PLO's basis. Some groups voiced reservations about the national program in Algiers. We are frightened of or alarmed at any differences or some groups' rejection of a position or an initiative. There is an extreme right and an extreme left in Israel. We can eventually secure a Palestinian position of rejection or acceptance, but according to the PLO's basis and within the Palestinian home. And disagreement is a healthy phenomenon.

Ghassan al-Shak'ah on Egypt's, Shamir Peace Moves

PM1810113689 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Oct 89 p 32

[Interview with Ghassan al-Shak'ah, West Bank Palestinian figure, by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date unspecified]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Recently numerous initiatives have been proposed to end the Palestinian problem. These include Shamir's plan, the Palestinian peace plan, Mubarak's 10 points, and the 12 points presented by the Labor Party last month. May we know the views of one of the occupied territory's leaders of all these initiatives?

Al-Shak'ah: Let us begin with the Palestinian peace plan, which represents the minimum which the Palestinian people can accept to achieve a permanent and just peace. That plan proves the Palestinian leadership's wisdom and efforts to achieve peace. As for Shamir's proposal, it does not constitute any peace plan or initiative. It is—as its points indicate—an attempt to play for time in order to destroy the intifadah and then divide the Palestinian people between those outside and those inside [the occupied territories]. It considers that the people are confined to residents of the occupied territories and do not constitute a people with rights and aspirations which they want to achieve. In its first point the plan calls for a

solution of the refugees problem in the occupied territories, which it portrays as a humanitarian problem, with a view to ending the problem by settling the refugees, because the camps represent a security burden for Israel. As for the elections, it is a vain attempt in the name of democracy—a resounding word in the Western world, which expected a Palestinian and Arab rejection of that point. But the Palestinian leadership did not reject the election principle. It rejected elections in the form presented in Shamir's initiative, since he is trying to divide the Palestinians between those inside and those outside and to split the Arab world by dragging certain Arab states into dealing with that proposal.

AL-HAWADITH: What about Egypt's 10 points and the proposals of the Israeli Labor Party last month, especially what was said about the existence of similarities between the two plans?

Al-Shak'ah: Egypt's 10 points are not an initiative, as President Husni Mubarak said. They are points or questions addressed to the Israeli Government about Shamir's plan or proposal. The questions deal with the proposals themselves and have nothing to do with the final solution. Unfortunately the Israeli response has so far been negative. My personal view is that no position is requested from us on those queries, since they are addressed to the Israelis. For our part, we believe in a just peace that guarantees our people's right to self-determination and all their other legitimate rights. We also believe that this can be achieved via an international conference attended by the parties to the conflict, including the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and under international auspices to guarantee the achievement of this just peace.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Labor Party's initiative, especially since it contains positive points, as represented by the agreement to exchange land for peace?

Al-Shak'ah: Experience has taught us not to deal with such initiatives as a real fact, but that we must deal with the Israeli Government's decisions alone, because neither the Likud nor the Labor Party alone represents the entire government. They are trial balloons aimed at either getting out of a particular dilemma or testing the Arab reaction to them. Thus we must deal with a decision from the Israeli Government as a whole.

AL-HAWADITH: But Rabin's statement during his visit to Cairo represented something like tacit agreement to include Palestinian representatives from outside in the delegation to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Al-Shak'ah: Yes, we realize that Rabin is a strong figure in the government, but his statements do not reflect a decision by the government. There are huge conflicts and numerous blocs within the Israeli Government—so much so that a certain party used coarse expressions in his description of Egypt's 10 questions, to the effect that they should not be dealt with or responded to, despite the existence of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Everything happening in Israel is worthless. There has to be a decision by the Israeli Government, which has offered nothing except its approval of Shamir's plan, whose aim is to destroy the Palestinians and the intifadah.

AL-HAWADITH: But is the dispute among the Israeli Government parties a certainty?

Al-Shak'ah: The dispute has existed for a long time. It is over who should rule Israel—a dispute over posts, not principles.

AL-HAWADITH: Will you be a member of the Palestinian delegation?

AL-Shak'ah: There is no Palestinian delegation. Quite simply, a delegation needs an issue to discuss, and so far no such issue has been established. It also requires a decision from the PLO, and so far there has been no decision on this.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the truth about reports of a meeting between Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories and Rabin during his recent visit to Cairo?

Al-Shak'ah: First, Egypt cannot impose on us a meeting with Rabin, and of course we cannot request such a meeting. This, because there is no issue to discuss, and the reports in that regard are a conspiratorial attempt by the Israeli media. It fooled some Western and Arab media organs and caused problems and embarrassment. We are not Palestinian leaders; we are Palestinian soldiers. We believe that the driving force is the Palestinian people's representative, namely, the PLO, which has not yet spoken of the existence of a Palestinian delegation.

Ahmad Jibril Interviewed in Hizballah Paper

NC1710161289 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 6 Oct 89, pp 7, 13

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by an unidentified AL-'AHD correspondent in Tehran—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] What is the aim of your visit to Iran?

[Jibril] Our organization was invited to take part in a discussion of the political situation that would benefit Palestinian and Lebanese issues.

[Correspondent] At the beginning of our talk, we must discuss the Palestinian situation. How do you assess what is taking place in view of the continuing blessed intifadah?

[Jibril] The Palestinian people's revolution inside the homeland is constantly escalating, and all wagers on its abatement have failed. This intifadah and popular revolution has great significance in that these people reject coexistence with the Jews and the Israelis, contrary to the impression that some Israelis and Arab regimes have attempted to convey. These regimes try to tell Arab and international public opinion that it is possible for the Muslim Palestinian people to

coexist with the Jews on Palestinian land. This intifadah completely rejects this assumption.

A second point is that escalating and continuing the intifadah rejects the Zionist and Jewish presence in our land. In the land that was Palestine in 1948 we are seeing events in Galilee, Jaffa, and Haifa which thoroughly indicate that the people reject the fait accompli policy that has been imposed on them by the reactionary regimes of global arrogance. The recent incidents in Galilee, particularly the fires started by Palestinian strugglers in Haifa and Carmel which caused losses of $100 million to the Zionist entity, fully indicate that the people reject all the false facts that the arrogant powers have established in the region, such as saying that Israel is an actual reality. The people want to prove the facts of history and justice that were built by this nation's glory, namely that Palestine is part of the Muslim and Arab land and that the presence of Israelis and Jews on Palestinian land is merely a conspiracy designed to harm this nation's dignity and future.

[Correspondent] What effect do the conspiracies and the treasonous and capitulatory deals by the PLO and the reactionary Arab regimes have on the revolution being conducted against the usurper by the people inside the homeland?

[Jibril] Doubtless, continuous attempts are being made to abort and to contain the popular revolution in Palestine. Several parties are carrying out the plot to contain this popular revolution and divert it from its goals, prior to demolishing and aborting it. This alliance to abort the intifadah is led by the powers of global arrogance, chiefly the United States, the reactionary Arab regimes, and the PLO leadership. All of them eventually aim to abort the intifadah by proposing plans that are apparently merciful but are in essence full of injustice and fire for our people. Conspiracies are constantly being hatched, sometimes in Tunis and sometimes in Washington, once inside occupied Palestine, and finally in Cairo.

All of these plans eventually have one aim—to abort the blessed intifadah of our people inside the homeland. Shamir's plan, and the 10 points which Husni Mubarak recently proposed in conjunction with Rabin or Yasir 'Arafat are merely part of the schemes designed to end our people's intifadah. For this reason, these reactionary Arab regimes fear this blessed popular intifadah as Israel fears it. Hence these regimes and the Zionist enemy share a common fear of the intifadah. King Husayn feels that a similar intifadah might, by contagion, move eastward across the Jordan River to topple his regime. Husni Mubarak also fears the intifadah and the possibility that the Muslim people in Egypt might also carry out an intifadah that would topple the Camp David regime.

We believe that our people inside the homeland are aware of the implications of this conspiracy and the international ploys that are taking place around them. Our proof of this is that the intifadah's masses totally reject all the schemes that are designed to end the intifadah. Our people inside the homeland, like our people abroad, have rejected Shamir's election plan which was supported by the United States and many other countries. Our people inside the homeland have proclaimed their total rejection of the "10 points" which Husni Mubarak proposed. Our people inside the homeland have also escalated their blessed intifadah in response to Mubarak's recent ideas. Indeed there is a direct threat from our people's masses to any Palestinian party that might join these parties in their ploy to end the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Zionist planes are always raiding the positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], particularly in response to the struggle operations that the front carries out. What are your views on the aims and effects of these attacks?

[Jibril] First of all we have adopted a clear strategic decision that states that armed struggle with the Zionist enemy is a basic and important part of our confrontation strategy. We believe that abandoning armed struggle means abandoning our cause.

We feel that 'Arafat is not serious about fighting the Zionist enemy, and we possess proofs and documents to this effect. Certainly the Zionist enemy knows what we think. Numerous Israeli officials have said that there are rivers of blood between them and the PFLP-GC. Several such statements were made to the Israeli prime minister by Israeli officials. The Israeli defense minister has announced that "the PFLP-GC will always remain on our agenda." Such Israeli plans indicate that they realize the nature of the danger we pose to the Zionist entity. We have used, and used well, every opportunity to fight this enemy. Regarding the operations that start from Southern Lebanon, we in the PFLP-GC do not publicize any operation that is carried out inside Lebanese territory but leave it unnamed until one faction or another or an individual in Lebanon claims responsibility for it. We do not let a single week pass without planting some mines.

Our decision is not to claim any operations that are carried out inside the border zone. However, we have a standing decision to claim and publicize operations that will extend beyond the border zone into Palestine when such operations take place. To tell the truth, and I am not revealing a secret when I say this, we are training our fighters and strugglers to carry out operations inside the occupied land. Do not forget that the Israeli enemy has made major security inroads inside Lebanon and has numerous sophisticated methods of eavesdropping. The network of agents is also very large. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the real nature of the relationship between the PFLP-GC and the intifadah strugglers, specifically the Islamic resistance "HAMAS" and the Islamic Jihad movement?

[Jibril] We and the Islamic currents inside Palestine are doubtless in the same trench. There is complete actual coordination inside Palestine between us and these Islamic currents, which have clear objectives. Ever since

the first day of the intifadah we have had constant meetings and coordination over all popular, struggle, and media actions with those strugglers. We certainly hope that these relations will develop more in the future and be continuously enhanced so that their effect on the enemy will be greater.

[Correspondent] What description do you prefer be given to brother Ahmad Jibril, "fundamentalist", or "secular"? Which party does he support?

[Jibril] I might disagree with you regarding such terms. We have become a true part of revolutionary Islam, the true Islam which opposes imperialism, Zionism, the forces of reaction, and the powers of global arrogance. [passage omitted]

'Sources' on Palestinian Passport Acceptance

JN1410070889 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Highly-placed Palestinian sources have told AL-BAYAN that the PLO has obtained the approval of all the Arab states with the exception of Syria, Oman, and Somalia to accept the passport the PLO intends to issue for Palestinian citizens outside the occupied territories. This passport is to be officially issued by all the offices and embassies of Palestine in the states that have recognized it.

The sources added that the PLO has not yet received any reply to its request in this regard from Syria, Oman, and Somalia, and that most of the African countries, with the exception of those countries that have relations with Israel, as well as the Asian countries have also agreed to this. The sources noted that the East bloc states, including the USSR, have also agreed, and that some European countries have informed the PLO of their approval. However, the sources did not name these countries.

The PLO had earlier entrusted a Palestinian designer residing abroad with designing the passport. The design has been finalized.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid on 'Very Successful' Libya Talks

NC1810155689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the talks which President Husni Mubarak held with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi were very successful. They are considered to be a step toward further bilateral cooperation, he said.

Our radio correspondent has learned that the follow-up bureaus which the two leaders decided to set up in each other's countries will have several tasks. Foremost among these is the implementation of the measures that have been agreed upon to promote Egyptian-Libyan relations in various fields, in accordance with the contents of the joint communique on the Tubruq talks.

Soviet Envoy on Internal Situation, Relations

NC1710191389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1638 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)--At a news conference he held today, Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev emphasized that his country welcomes the normalization of relations between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He expressed the hope that the summit meetings between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will contribute positively to developing relations not only on the bilateral level but on the regional level in general. The Soviet ambassador underlined the traditional, deep-rooted relations between the Soviet Union and both Egypt and Libya.

Regarding President Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Moscow, the Soviet ambassador said that the Soviet officials are convinced that this visit will increase cooperation and strengthen the friendship between the two countries in all fields.

The Soviet ambassador affirmed that Egypt and the Soviet Union are seeking to conclude two agreements. The first pertains to a program for economic and technical cooperation and the second to a 5-year protocol for trade and technical cooperation from 1991 to 1996.

Regarding the initiatives to solve the Palestinian issue, the Soviet ambassador affirmed that the Soviet Union supports all proposals favoring embarking on the peace process. He referred in this regard to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal to host a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Moscow. He noted the international consensus to convene an international peace conference with the participation of all the parties concerned under UN auspices in order to achieve a final settlement that will ensure cooperation and security for all the countries in the region. He explained that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will only be a step toward peace and stressed that his country supports guarantees for the rights of the Palestinian people and at the same time supports guarantees for Israel's security.

Ambassador Zhuravlev reaffirmed the Soviet Union's position regarding the need to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. He expressed his country's support for the Arab tripartite committee's efforts and hope that the al-Ta'if meetings will reach a formula that would safeguard Lebanon's independence and unity.

Regarding Soviet aid to Third World countries, the Soviet ambassador said that although the size of this aid is currently linked to the economic situation in the Soviet Union, it has reached R9.7 billion this year.

He affirmed that the Soviet Union supports the developing states in their attempt to solve the foreign debt problem. He cited Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's statement that the Third World debt problem hinders economic and social development.

The Soviet ambassador spoke about the nationalities problem in the Soviet Union. He admitted the existence of social tension, which has reached the point of explosion, in relations between the various nationalities. He said that a program was drawn up to correct the situation among the nationalities in the Soviet Union during the recent the CPSU meeting at the end of September. He stressed that irrespective of the tensions, no one has raised the idea of secession from the Soviet Union.

Regarding the situation in the East European countries, the ambassador said: Of course the situation is causing some concern to us. But it is up to the peoples and not the Soviet Union to decide how to develop socialism in these countries. He pointed out that his country does not impose on its friends in the socialist countries a Soviet concept for "perestroyka." The socialist system cannot be exactly the same in all states.

The Soviet ambassador referred to the current developments inside the Soviet Union and affirmed that after 4 years of "perestroyka," it is necessary to eliminate political, party, economic, and social centralism. He said that the main problem is improving the standard of living to which all the people aspire. He said that a number of bills have been submitted to regulate life, such as the bills on property ownership, exploitation of land, rental relationships, a new taxation system, and the socialist production establishments. He noted that such bills could lead to the establishment of a strong base for implementing the restructuring policy.

He referred to the effect of what is happening in the Soviet Union on international relations in general and said that the world has now entered a new stage based on security, peace, and cooperation instead of conflict and cold war.

Regarding the recent meeting between the Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers, the Soviet ambassador said that it led to proximity of views on many issues, particularly on

the reduction in the stockpiles of conventional weapons by 5 percent and understanding on chemical weapons, which the Soviet Union has decided unilaterally to stop producing.

He referred in this regard to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's initiative during his recent visit to Egypt, calling for disarmament in the Middle East.

Czechoslovak Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive

NC1710145389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Ladislav Adamec, prime minister of Czechoslovakia, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; the ministers of scientific research, industry, economy, and finance; the minister of state for international cooperation; the governor of Cairo; the representatives of the Armed Forces main branches; Egypt's ambassador in Czechoslovakia; the Czechoslovak ambassador in Cairo; and members of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Cairo were at Cairo Airport to meet him. The guest was accorded an official welcome at the airport. The first session of talks between the Egyptian and Czechoslovak delegations will take place this evening.

Talks Open in Cairo 17 Oct

NC1710204089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—The official talks between Egypt and Czechoslovakia opened here this evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Czech Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec. The session was preceded by a private meeting between the two prime ministers. During the expanded round of talks, ways of consolidating economic and technical cooperation and promoting trade between the two countries were discussed.

Present at the talks on behalf of Egypt were Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Electricity Minister Eng Mahir Abazah; Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific cooperation; Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa; Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz; Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and Nabil Hilmi, Egypt's ambassador in Prague.

The Czech delegation to the talks included Finance Minister Jan Stejskal; Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba; Framtisek Ondorich, minister chairman of the People's Control Commission; Deputy Foreign Minister [title as received] Jaromir Nehera; Ivan Voles, director of the Africa and Near East department at the Foreign Ministry; and Milos Vesely, Czechoslovakia's ambassador in Cairo.

In a statement after the session, Prime Minister Sidqi said the talks had revealed that the two countries share identical views, particularly over Middle Eastern issues. Czechoslovkia supports the convening of an international peace conference and backs the peaceful efforts to resolve the other problems in the region, he stated.

Referring to the huge volume of trade between the two countries, Dr Sidqi said there is an opportunity for advanced Czech industry to contribute to some of the industrial projects in Egypt. The Czechoslovak prime minister's visit to Egpyt, he added, crowns a series of visits exchanged between the competent ministers in the two countries last year during which several agreements were concluded. He noted that bilateral cooperation covers technical, cultural, economic, and trade matters. Dr Sidqi ended his statement by saying that the technical committees concerned will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, at the ministerial level for a detailed discussion of the various aspects of cooperation in the different domains.

For his part, the Czech prime minister said his country is eager to promote economic relations with Egypt and that it has an interest in Egyptian industrial products and commodities, particularly cotton. His country, he stated, looks forward to increasing and expanding bilateral industrial cooperation. The Czech guest described bilateral relations as good and longstanding, noting that the two countries share identical views on current international issues.

Mubarak Receives Adamec

NC1810123789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—A responsible source in the presidential office has stated that Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec has expressed his country's appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's wise policy on the regional and international levels.

During his meeting with President Mubarak today, Adamec stressed that Czechoslovakia and Egypt held identical views on various international topics.

The source noted that during the meeting, the Czechoslovak premier reviewed the advanced economic situation in his country, as well as the advanced level of industrialization in all fields.

The source added that the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; the Egyptian ambassador in Prague; and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Cairo.

Ministers Discuss Cooperation

NC1810152089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, has received Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba, who is currently visiting Cairo.

They discussed ways of promoting cooperation in the electricity and energy fields and the exchange of technical expertise, as well as the follow-up to joint projects, including rural electrification projects.

Supreme Court Postpones Trial of Nasirites

JN1710201489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Oct 89 p 11

[By Mahmud al-Nubi]

[Text] The Supreme State Security Court decided yesterday to postpone examining the case of the underground Nasirite Organization until early December; to release third defendant Jamal al-Din Munib Junaydi and ban him from traveling; and to inform the witnesses and the defendants of the date of the session.

The court held a session yesterday under Counsellor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi and Wasfi Nashid and Ahmad Amin 'Abd-al-Hafiz, members of the court, in the presence of 'Ali al-Hiwari, head of the State Security Prosecution Office, and secretary Ibrahim al-Mahdi; in order to retry the defendants following the military governor's refusal to endorse the ruling issued against them by another department.

The 15 defendants were charged by the prosecution with establishing and founding an illegitimate secret organization to act against the basic principles of the government; with participating in a criminal endeavor; with having contact with a foreign country; and with obtaining money from that country to carry out terrorist operations.

Editorial on Israeli 'Logic' in Peace Process

JN1510184689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Best!"]

[Text] Shamir insists on his government's right to reject any proposal presented to it as part of the efforts to resolve the Middle East question as long as this proposal does not provide the best option possible for the Israeli Government. He says he is not committed to accept any Egyptian idea, and that he can present proposals that explain the deadlock in the same current context but in circumstances more favorable to Israel. [sentence as published]

Although all these are rightful claims, they have ulterior motives because they measure everything with "what is better for Israel"—that is, they always tip the balance in favor of Israel. In this way, Israel can ensure—since it controls things through its actual occupation and military force—that it always remains in "the higher" position. This logic necessarily overrides others' rights. It not only robs all other parties of their right to submit proposals and choose what is best for them, but also deprive them of any opportunity to put forward any initiative providing "the best option for the situation." In other words, if this Israeli method prevents the Palestinians from proposing "the best possible option" for them, it also prevents any other party, whether close to or far from the center of the problem, from proposing any initiative of understanding meant to give the best option for the two main parties to the question.

This is the Israeli logic. Despite its glossy facade, it reveals a hidden conspiracy and intention to kill off peace endeavors. Indeed, it constitutes "the peaceful excuses" that occupiers in all times and in every place make. These excuses only demonstrate an ingrained desire to continue occupation and defend it with the fangs of peace; they claim desire to participate in peace, but from the same "position of power," which forces all others to yield to what Israel thinks is the best for itself, without regard to any right or any element in the situation. It is the same sinful logic that ultimately leads to heightening the factors of confrontation and war. Those who say that these Israeli maneuvers are meant to stall for time to prolong confrontations with the intifadah in the hope of ending it, are mistaken, at least in the "desired" outcome of this argument. The intifadah gets stronger with the passage of time, and no one knows how it will be developed, perhaps into an armed revolution. Stalling for time, here, is nothing but the invocation of catastrophe.

By playing "various tones on the rhythm of occupation," Israel, in fact, is doing nothing more than trying to reweave a worn-out rope.

Palestinians, 'Abd-al-Majid on Baker's 5 Points

JN1710152289 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Oct 89 p 6

[Editorial: "The Imminent Solution and the Continuation of the Battle for Peace"]

[Text] Egyptian diplomacy has continued to wage the battle for peace. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Palestinian delegation visiting Cairo have discussed the five points proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and assessed the situation in light of Israel's continuing intransigence and the Shamir government's refusal so far to embark on a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

While the U.S. Administration is awaiting the Egyptian response in light of the outcome of the Egyptian-Palestinian consultations, the PLO Central Council is holding an important meeting in Baghdad under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. News about a trilateral

summit meeting of President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat in November is getting more certain. In addition, Egyptian-U.S. contacts are continuing, and the two sides agree about the need to maintain the momentum of the peace process and to give the Palestinians the full right to express their views when negotiations over the proposed elections start. These elections have now become a predicament to Shamir, who announced them on 14 May as a maneuver. But when President Mubarak presented the 10 points, he pulled the carpet from under the feet of the Israeli Government; he put the onus on this government before the world to take a realistic step to convince world public opinion that it genuinely desires peace. Even the voices that defend Israel in the United States have begun to change their tune and urge Israel to accept the fact which Egyptian diplomacy has sought to highlight—namely, the need to exchange land for peace and to establish the independent Palestinian state, if a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is to be achieved.

If these changes take a long time to be fully absorbed and converted into political positions, then we should maintain patience, calm, and a quiet, credible dialogue; we should act jointly with the sisterly Arab countries in all areas so that a just settlement of the principal Arab question can be achieved now that we have managed to put this question on the right path.

Trade Union Leader Al-'Amawi Interviewed

PM1710142589 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17 Oct 89 p 11

[Interview with Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian General Federation of Trade Unions, by Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-'Ashri] Was there any coordination between you and the Interior Ministry on storming the iron and steel plants?

[Al-'Amawi] That did not happen at all. It is an accusation which we reject. How can we coordinate with the Interior Ministry on storming the plants, dispersing the workers, and obstructing work—something which is not in line with our principal objective. The federation's major role is concerned with Egyptian workers, with preserving their achievements, and with protecting them from any aggression. What happened in the iron and steel plants was the result of personal attitudes and one-upmanship on the part of some workers seeking leadership. They threatened to destroy the plants, so there was a need for the police forces to intervene to protect the plants from sabotage. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Ashri] You headed the Egyptian delegation to the talks with the Libyans on restoring the rights of the Egyptian workers expelled from Libya in 1985. What did the talks achieve?

[Al-'Amawi] After the return of the normal atmosphere between Egypt and Libya we went to Tripoli by official invitation with a view to discussing the Egyptian workers' rights. We held negotiations with the Libyan producers union, whose leaders expressed willingness to settle the necessary dues and compensations. The two sides signed a protocol, and they requested some time to enable the Libyan Government to settle these compensations. We agreed to this under the sponsorship of the ILO [International Labor Organization] in Geneva. We also invited them to visit Egypt. Then came the 1 September celebrations and the issue was postponed for some time. We hope that the Libyan brothers will settle the compensation issue soon, and we welcome their visit at any time.

[Al-'Ashri] You returned recently from a visit to Syria. What about Egyptian-Syrian relations?

[Al-'Amawi] Egyptian-Syrian relations are fine and are proceeding on an open road. The Syrian brothers harbor feelings of love and welcoming toward Egypt and its president, and that was confirmed to me by the Syrian leaders with whom I met. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Ashri] What have you done regarding the Egyptian workers detained in Iranian prisons?

[Al-'Amawi] For several years we have knocked on every door to secure the release of the Egyptian POW's detained in Iranian jails. We have called on the appropriate international organizations, including the United Nations and Red Cross associations, but so far there have been no positive signs on the horizon. We now call on the Iranians to quickly release our POW's and workers detained in their jails, especially as the Iraqi Government agreed to release all the Iranian POW's after the first moment of the cease-fire between the two countries. So will the Iranians respond this time, especially as we in Egypt do not know the exact number of POW's? [passage omitted]

Crude Oil Price Increase Planned for 16 Oct

NC1510215289 Cairo MENA in English 2130 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 15 (MENA)—The Egyptian Petroleum Corporation decided to raise crude oil prices as of tomorrow by one dollar a barrel.

The crude oil pricing committee held a meeting today to discuss the latest developments of the oil market.

Following is a list of new prices:
—Suez Gulf crude 17.50 dollars a barrel;
—Bal'im crude 16.65 dollars a barrel;
—Badran crude 15.50 dollars a barrel;
—Gharib crude 15.20 dollars a barrel.

Paper Notes Oil Discovery Along Mediterranean

NC1610084389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 16 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] AL-AHRAM reports that the Egyptian Petroleum Company has for the first time discovered oil in quantities suitable for economic exploitation along the Mediterranean. The company discovered a field in western Abu Qir, Alexandria, which it estimates can yield 1,500 barrels of crude oil, 300 barrels of oil condensates, and 12.5 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. [passage omitted]

Denmark Grants $30 Million for Water Drainage

NC1710094789 Cairo MENA in English 0811 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 17 (MENA)—The Government of Denmark has decided to extend a grant of thirty million dollars to Egypt to be used for financing the foreign component required for the project of establishing seventy seven stations for treatment of sanitary drainage waters at the level of the Republic.

Board chairman of the National Authority for Potable Water and Sanitary Drainage said that the total cost of the project amounts to 108 million Egyptian pounds. He said that the project is part of the plan of the Ministry of Reconstruction and New Communities which provides for defining systems for the treatment of sanitary drainage waters.

Kuwait To Receive Egyptian-Made Jeeps

NC1710100489 Cairo MENA in English 0710 GMT 17 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—In the middle of next month Kuwait will receive 44 Egyptian-made armours and about 400 jeeps, the second consignment of the armoured "Fahd" deal, Cairo press reported.

On the occasion of opening a new line for the repair and overhaul of helicopter plane engines, Chairman of the Arab Organization for Industrialization General Ibrahim al-'Urabi announced that the production of the organization increased by 25 percent and the earnings of the organization by 6 percent. Such an increase has not taken place since five years, the papers said.

He added that the new plant for the production of advanced electronics will yield production in 18 months. He affirmed that Egypt shares in the manufacture, repair, and maintenance of advanced types of aircraft such as the Mirage, F-16, and Tucano. This will lead to the establishment of a broad and advanced base for aircraft industry in Egypt.

Morocco

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives With Message

LD1610143189 Rabat MAP in English 1212 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 16 (MAP)—Jordanian Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Marwan al-Qasim arrived Sunday in Rabat on a visit to Morocco.

In an arrival statement, Al-Qasim said he will be conveying a message from King Husayn of Jordan to King Hassan II. He said his visit was part of "permanent coordination" between the two countries.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD1710221489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Jordanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has ended his visit to our country. He delivered to His Majesty King Hassan II a message from the Jordanian monarch, His Majesty King Husayn. On his mission, Marwan al-Qasim said in a statement today on leaving Mohammed V Airport:

[Begin Al-Qasim recording] I had the fortune of meeting His Majesty King Hassan II yesterday. I conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Husayn. The message included the views of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan regarding the general situation in the Arab world, and in particular the Palestine issue, the Lebanese crisis, and the situation between Iraq and Iran. His Majesty King Hassan was totally in agreement with the views of His Majesty King Husayn in relation to the three topics. I was also able to acquaint His Majesty with the latest developments in the Jordanian arena, such as the economic situation and the forthcoming elections. [passage omitted] [end recording]

FRG President Arrives on Official Visit

LD1610212489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency Richard von Weizsaecker, president of the Federal Republic of Germany, has started his official visit to Morocco. His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, welcomed the German president and his wife when he arrived in Sale airport this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Welcomed by King Hassan II

LD1710140189 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 17 (MAP)—President of the Federal Republic of Germany Richard von Weizsaecker arrived Monday afternoon in Rabat on a five-day official visit to Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan II.

President Weizsaecker, who was accompanied by his spouse, was greeted upon arrival at the airport by King Hassan II, flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, Prince Moulay Rashid, and Princess Lalla Hasna.

He was also greeted by the cabinet members headed by Premier Azzeddine Laraki, Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman, the king's advisers, the two countries ambassadors, senior officers of the Royal Armed Forces and several other personalities.

After the formal ceremony and a (?short rest) at the airport's VIP lounge, King Hassan and his illustrious guest headed for Rabat amidst a most enthusiastic popular welcome, all the way to President Weizsaecker's official residence during his visit.

The West German president is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation comprising Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation Rurger Warnke, Minister of State to Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaffer, Secretary of State, Presidential Office Director Andreas Meyer Landrut and President of the Germano-Moroccan Friendship Association Volkman Kohler.

Later on Monday evening, President Weizsaecker offered a reception in honor of the West German community living in Morocco.

Attends Dinner Banquet

LD1810175289 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 18 (MAP)—King Hassan II offered a dinner banquet, Tuesday evening in Rabat, in honor of visiting West German President Richard von Weizsaecker.

The sovereign was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid.

In an exchange of toasts, King Hassan (?assessed) the secular relations between Morocco and Germany. The sovereign retraced the history of these relations since 1872, when the first German diplomatic representation in Morocco was created, to 1905 when Emperior Guillaume II visited Tangiers, to the present times marked by close cooperation relations in all fields.

Speaking of Germany's early drive for unity at a time the rest of Europe was dispersed, King Hassan said this action, "which history rightfully called "the German unity," could only win the sympathy and (?admiration) of a country like ours, which knew then the value of national unity and the price to be paid to have and safeguard it."

King Hassan said nowadays, after the "short" but "costly" bracket of the beginning of the century, Germany has rapidly taken up its leading place among nations, as testifies the special weight it has within the European Community, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and worldwide, and the key-role it plays in East-West relations.

"Were you not among the first to declare that East and West Germany are united by affinities of so elementary a nature that neither partitioning nor time will succeed in erasing?" the sovereign exclaimed.

Speaking in turn, President von Weizsaecker also retraced in detail the history of relations between the two countries from the 17th century to the present days, stressing "the more than satisfactory" cooperation established since Morocco's independence.

President von Weizsaecker paid special tribute to the sovereign for the "courage and wisdom" with which he is leading his country and for his equally courageous and moderate approach in handling regional and international issues.

Referring to the recent creation of the Arab Maghreb union "UMA", the West German president said UMA "is the proper framework for close cooperation and stability in the region," and "gives special weight to the region's traditional relations with Europe."

Underlining that Morocco is a "privileged partner of the European Community" with more than half its exports going to EEC markets, President Weizsaecker stressed that "our markets will remain open. The Federal Republic of Germany commits itself to that."

The illustrious guest also paid tribute to the sovereign's action in favour of Lebanon and the Palestinian cause, mainly his moderation and efforts for establishing peace and understanding there.

He said for Germany, "peace efforts should have for objective reaching a peaceful settlement guaranteeing the right to existence within sure and recognized frontiers to all the region's states, including Israel, and permitting the Palestinian people exercise its right to self-rule."

On East-West relations, President Weizsaecker said "we want that the two Germanies be a factor of peace and contribute to rapproching the peoples of Eastern and Western Europe".

The dinner banquet was attended by the members of the official delegation accompanying President Weizsaecker, Premier Azzeddine Laraki, speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman, the cabinet members, the king's advisers, senior officers of the Royal Armed Forces, the princes and the sovereign's brothers and sons-in-law, political party leaders and several other personalities.

Holds 'Private Talks'

LD1810180789 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 18 (MAP)—Tuesday, the second day of the official visit to Morocco by West German President Richard von Weizsaecker, was marked by the round of private talks he held with King Hassan at the Royal Palace in Rabat.

During this meeting, attended by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rashid, the sovereign offered his guest a chain of the "Mohammadi Wissam" [as recieved].

Earlier on Tuesday, President von Weizsaecker had visited the Mohammed V mausoleum where he placed a spray of flowers on the late sovereign's tomb.

He also visited the Oudaya Museum, the Chellah archeological site and the water treatment station in Rabat.

In the afternoon, Premier Azzeddine Laraki and Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman made a courtesy call on the West German president at his official residence here.

For their part, the members of the official delegation accompanying President von Weizsaecker held a series of talks with several Moroccan officials on means of upgrading bilateral relations in various fields.

Meetings thus gathered Speaker of the House Ahmed Osman with West German Secretary of State to Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaffer, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ahmed Shekaoui with Schaffer, and Minister of Finance Mohamed Berrada with West German Minister of Economic Cooperation Juergen Warnke.

Special emphasis was laid on economic, trade, and financial cooperation between the two countries, particularly between their respective private sectors.

King Welcomes Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Meeting

LD1710144989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II has described the meeting between Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, as the start of a new phase which will contribute to the strengthening of Arab ranks and their unification.

These comments were made in the messages of congratulations which His Majesty King Hassan II sent to President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the occasion of their historic meeting in Marsa Matruh in Egypt, yesterday. [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Minister Addresses UN Assembly

PM1610113289 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA ET DU MAGHREB in French 8 Oct 89 p 2

[MAP report: "Abdellatif Filali Delivers Major Speech at 44th UN General Assembly Session"]

[Excerpts] Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali said that the "creation of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] has become a vital necessity in view of the economic and social problems being experienced by our countries which can only be solved by combining our efforts in a regional framework.

Addressing the 44th UN General Assembly session on Friday, Abdellatif Filali added that since the signing of the Marrakesh Treaty forming the UMA, "sustained efforts and considerable work has been carried out in various spheres with a view to giving Maghreb integration its full significance."

The full text of Abdellatif Filali's speech follows. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman,

It was with interest that Morocco learned of the proposals and initiatives which various European countries have put forward in the framework of reducing arms in Europe and creating a climate of confidence between the states on that continent, which is the theater of operations for the two big military alliances.

Because of its privileged position which reflects its geopolitical situation, Morocco cannot remain indifferent to anything which affects peace and security in the Mediterranean, because peace in this region is linked with peace on the European Continent, as has been stressed by the General Assembly's various resolutions and successive statements by the Nonaligned Movement.

The Kingdom of Morocco therefore hopes that practical measures will be taken in the near future in the disarmament sphere with a view to turning the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, security, and cooperation, safe from any dispute or confrontation.

We also hope that this detente will give impetus to the Geneva disarmament conference to bring it out of the period of lethargy which it is now experiencing and enable it to conduct productive negotiations with a view to finding agreements, which we await with impatience, on banning chemical weapons, among other things.

Mr Chairman,

We would have liked to see the Middle East region benefiting from this climate of detente in international relations, too.

It must be noted that Israel's intransigence and its rejection of all the initiatives taken by the Arab countries do not make us optimistic.

In this connection, it will be remembered that at the 12th summit held in Fes in 1982, the Arab countries adopted a comprehensive peace plan which was welcomed by the international community.

The peaceful settlement of this problem was, moreover, very solemnly accepted by the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers in November 1989 [as published] and by the statements made by the president of the Palestinian state in December 1989 [as published] to the General Assembly in Geneva. This peaceful approach has won support and encouragement from the whole international community.

At the extraordinary Arab summit which Morocco hosted in Casablanca last May, the Arab countries reaffirmed the importance they attach to a peaceful solution. For instance, they reaffirmed that any solution depends on:

—Israel's total withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.
—The restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights, including their right to return, their right to self-determination, and to establish their own independent state in Palestine.
—An international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the five permanent Security Council members, and all the sides involved in the conflict, including the Palestinian state's representatives, with a view to reaching a just and comprehensive settlement to the conflict based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, on all the relevant UN resolutions, on the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, and on the basis of an agreement on security guarantees for all the countries in the region, including the Palestinian state.

The continuation of the intifadah for almost 2 years, despite all Israel's means of repression, has shown the Palestinian people's determination to make all the necessary sacrifices to regain their dignity and defend their homeland.

The time has come for Israel to end its intransigent policy and respond to the repeated calls from the international community to hold a peace conference. Morocco firmly believes that the path of dialogue is the only one which can restore peace to this region.

Mr Chairman,

Lebanon, whose name until recently symbolized coexistence and tolerance, is experiencing an indescribable tragedy. Morocco, which has so many affinities with this fraternal country, could not be indifferent to the Lebanese people's tragedy.

In the framework of the efforts which the Arab states are constantly making to end the Lebanese people's trial, the recent Casablanca summit decided to set up a tripartite committee comprising His Majesty King Hassan II, His Majesty King Fahd, guardian of the Holy Places, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, to solve the Lebanese crisis. The committee has worked to end hostilities and bring about national reconciliation. To this end, it has succeeded in formulating a plan aimed at establishing an immediate cease-fire and bringing about a climate of security favorable to the adoption of the necessary measures for the restoration of the constitutional institutions.

The tripartite committee has succeeded in establishing a cease-fire. The security commission, which it formed, is working to ensure that it is respected. The positive stances adopted by those attending the al-Ta'if meeting of the Lebanese parliament are a source of optimism for us. We hope that the sides will reach agreement on a constitutional reform on the basis of the plan put forward by the tripartite committee—a reform which will take account of the changes in the country's economic and social situation.

The international community should give its support to the efforts to enable Lebanon to overcome its problems and achieve national consensus, to support Lebanese law on the basis of agreement, and to consolidate the Lebanese state's efforts to end the Israeli occupation and exercise full sovereignty over the whole of Lebanese territory with a view to using its own means to safeguard its security and stability.

Mr Chairman,

Morocco welcomes the continuation of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, two fraternal countries, in accordance with Security Council resolution 598. It sincerely hopes that all this resolution's provisions will be implemented and that peace will be established between those two countries once and for all.

Although Morocco welcomed the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, it can only express regret at the continuation of the war. It hopes that this country can regain full sovereignty, its status as a nonaligned state, and its freedom to make the political and economic choices which it deems necessary for its development, without foreign interference or pressure. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman,

Since the last session of the General Assembly, our region has taken important steps toward unity. Our peoples have always been aware of belonging to the same linguistic and religious community and of sharing the same cultural values.

The creation of the UMA has become an urgent need, in view of the nature of the economic and social problems facing our countries which can only be solved by combining our efforts in a regional framework. And this is particularly true because the current trend in the world is toward regional integration as a means of taking up the numerous challenges facing us, but also as a contributing factor for peace, harmony, and stability.

The efforts made by the five Maghreb heads of state at the first summit which they attended in Zeralda have continued and were crowned in Marrakesh on 17 February 1989 by the signing of the treaty instituting the UMA which comprises Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia, and Morocco.

Although the treaty aims to strengthen the ties of fraternity which unite the member states and their peoples, to achieve progress and prosperity in the societies which it comprises, and to defend their rights, it also aims to help safeguard peace based on justice and fairness. To this end, the UMA will pursue a joint policy in various spheres, and at the same time it will gradually work to achieve free circulation of goods, individuals, and capital among the different countries, in accordance with the plan of action adopted by the heads of state.

Since the signing of the UMA Treaty, sustained efforts and considerable work have been carried out in the various spheres with a view to giving full significance to Maghreb integration. For instance, at the same time as establishing the union's institutional bodies, we are working to implement the plan of action.

Regarding the UMA's relations with other regional groups, we are determined to strengthen ties of cooperation and coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Cooperation Council, in view of the values and objectives which we share. We have the same desire to strengthen our cooperation with other economic groups on our continent. This is the best way of achieving broader regional integration.

We are inspired by the same desire in our relations with the EEC, which is moving toward a single market. The UMA's existence will certainly facilitate cooperation between the two communities and, in any case, will permit more fruitful dialogue in view of the extent of their economic relations. Similarly, we aspire to establish economic cooperation with CEMA and the other regional economic groups.

Mr Chairman,

In accordance with its repeated pledge to have the so-called Western Sahara problem settled by a referendum on self-determination under UN auspices, Morocco gave its agreement in principle to the secretary general's peace plan on 30 August 1988.

Continuing his efforts to implement this plan, Javier Perez de Cuellar visited our region last June to pursue his preliminary talks with the different sides. At the end of that visit, the secretary general set up a technical commission with the job of sorting out the details for the plan's implementation.

Morocco will continue to give its support to the efforts made by the secretary general and the OAU chairman. [passage omitted]

Parliament Elects Vice Presidents, Chairmen

LD1710172389 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Rabat, 17 Oct (MAP)—After King Hassan II formally opened the fall parliamentary session for the 6th legislative year last Friday, the House of Representatives proceeded on Monday with the election of members of its bureau and the presidents of the permanent commissions.

Following the vote, the bureau of the house is made up as follows [all names as received]:
First vice president—Mohamed Jalal Essaid (UC) [Constitutional Union]
Second vice president—Mohamed Haddou Echiguer (RNI) [Independent National Rally]
Third vice president—Taki Allah Ma Al Ainine (MP) [Popular Movement]
Fourth vice president—Mohamed Saad Al Alami (PI) [Istiqlal Party]
Fifth vice president—El Habib Sinaceur (USFP) [Popular Forces Socialist Union]
Sixth vice president—Abdelaziz El Yacoubi (PND) [National Democratic Party]
Seventh vice president—Zarouali Brika (UC)

The House also elected Mohamed El Malki (UC) and Lahcen Nid-Oumghar (RNI) as secretaries of the House. [passage omitted]

The House then proceeded with the election of the chairmen of the 12 permanent parliamentary commissions. They are as follows:

Mohamed Lakhsassi (USFP)—chairman of the commission for National Education, Training of Executives and Vocational Training;
Abderrazak Afilal (PI)—chairman of the Commission for Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, and Animal Resources;
Tahar Al Masmoudi (UC)—chairman of the Commission for Finance, Planning, and Regional Development;
El Alami Tazi (RNI)—chairman of the commission for the Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Mining, and Employment;
Amin Demnati (MP)—chairman of the Commission for the Interior, Local Communities, and National Promotion;
Taeib Benkirane (UC)—chairman of the Commission for Justice, Legislation, and Public Administration;
Biadellah Mohamed Echeikh (PND)—chairman of the commission for Equipment, Communications, and Post;
Mohamed Maana Snoussi (USFP)—chairman of the Commission for National Development, Housing, and Environmental Protection;
Ahmed Laski (RNI)—chairman of the Commission for Foreign Affairs, Borders, Occupied Zones, and National Defense;
Mohamed El Fadili (MP)—chairman of the Commission for Social Affairs, Health, and Youth and Sports;
Abdelaziz Lamsioui (UC)—chairman of the Commission for Information, Culture, and Islamic Affairs;

Mohamed Al Madjdoubi (PI)—chairman of the Commission for the Sea and Tourism. [passage omitted]

MAP, Tunisian News Agency Review Cooperation

LD1710140889 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, Oct 17 (MAP)—Prospects of cooperation between the Moroccan and Tunisian news agencies, "MAP" and "TAP", were reviewed at a meeting here Monday between the two agencies' directors, 'Abd al-Jalil Fenjiro and [name indistinct] Jaafar.

The meeting that dwelt on means of bolstering cooperation between the two Maghreban news agencies was held on the eve of the 5th conference of Arab and European news agencies to be hosted by the Tunisian capital as of today.

Sudan

Libyan Military Delegation on 1-Day Visit

EA1610163889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council, arrived in Khartoum at 1000 this morning, leading a Libyan delegation on a short 1-day visit, during which he will deliver a letter from Libyan president [as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council. He is making a tour of a number of Arab countries and has delivered similar letters to the presidents of these states. [passage omitted]

Maj al-Khuwaylidi said the letter concerns bilateral relations between Libya and Sudan, issues of mutual interest, cooperation, Arab relations, strategies, and Arab unity. He said that the letters to the leaders of the Arab states he had visited concerned national endeavors within the framework of which he was visiting Sudan. He added that his efforts had met with complete success. [passage omitted] He is accompanied by a high-level military delegation of commanders from the Libyan Armed Forces.

Official Leaves for Home

EA1710182589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 October—Member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi left here yesterday for Libya, ending a brief visit to Sudan during which he conveyed a message from the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to the chairman of the Revolution Command Council, General 'Umar al-Bashir. The message dealt with the current development in the Arab world, the formulation of a unified Arab strategy to confront imperialist and Zionist plots, and working out a formula for Arab unity, a Libyan source said.

Al-Bashir Orders Formation of Security Courts

EA1610140789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] has ordered the formation of revolution security courts in the regions in accordance with Article 4/2 of the Revolution Security Courts Law for the year 1989. [passage omitted]

The special courts that are formed according to the special courts formation law for the year 1989 will continue to deal with the questions that they have started to handle, until these questions are resolved.

[Signed] 14 October 1989, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the NSRCC

Al-Bashir Issues Warning to Charity Organizations

NC1610213689 Cairo MENA in English 1010 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 16 (MENA)—Lt General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, head of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, warned charity organisations against exceeding their humanitarian objectives in Sudan.

Addressing the inaugural session of the second round of meetings of the board of trustees of the Islamic Relief Agency, which opened here yesterday, Al-Bashir said that the organisation which is proven to be seeking to spread sedition in Sudan will be checked and will not be allowed to exist in Sudan.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Relief Agency is a world charitable organisation based in the Sudanese capital and set up last year and it works for the relief of disaster victims in African countries.

Minister on Efforts for Peace With Rebels

EA1510203589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Mr Ali Muhammad Shummu, minister of culture and information, has affirmed that solving the southern problem is at the forefront of the tasks of the government of the National Salvation Revolution. This was said in his interview to Radio France International on arrival in Paris, on his way to Morocco to participate in the conference of Arab ministers of culture and information.

His Excellency also spoke on the national dialogue conference, explaining that the conference—whose participants were nationalist personalities with various viewpoints and religions—was studying the question from all its angles in order to present a unified view that would be the basis for the next round of discussions with

the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]. The minister stressed the necessity of the world convention and local public opinion on the need to end the war, because its continuation will mean more victims, in addition to the fallout of the war, namely migrants. [sentence as heard]

In reply to a question on Sudan's stand on Zambia's and Zimbabwe's reception of John Garang, Mr Ali Shummu said Sudan had notified the two states of its opinion through its embassies in their countries. He said: We were expecting the two friendly states to try to influence John Garang. His excellency affirmed Sudan's positive position on the relations of friendship that bound it to these two states.

Minister Ali Muhammad Shummu also met with a reporter from the (?Arab East Radio) in Paris. In reply to a question from him on Sudan's foreign policy, his excellency explained that Sudan's isolation and bad relations with neighbors were among the reasons for staging the National Salvation Revolution and that the revolution was repairing the relations, which had deteriorated, with the Arab world and neighboring states in Africa. He said the revolution was also striving to restore trust between Sudan and friendly states of the world and to benefit from various axes in order to build a new Sudan.

Garang Comments on Al-Bashir's Peace Efforts

EA1610195889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] chairman and Commander in Chief, Comrade Dr John Garang de Mabior, in a press conference he addressed in Harare, Friday 13 October 1989, marking the end of his 3-week visit to southern Africa, has said that the SPLM/SPLA is ready to talk with the junta and the other political forces whenever the junta is ready to respond to SPLM/SPLA's peace program, or, if the junta has its own peace program, to present it along with that of the SPLM/SPLA.

On the so-called peace talks that were taking place in Khartoum, Dr Garang said: Al-Bashir's peace committee is not engaged in peace negotiations. He added that none of the members of Al-Bashir's peace committee is at war with the other, and it is absurd to describe them as engaged in peace talks. He described Al-Bashir's peace committee as advisory, formed by the junta to make recommendations to the junta as to how to proceed with peace talks with the SPLM/SPLA.

The question of relief [words indistinct] in the press conference, the SPLM/SPLA leader affirmed that the movement guarantees safety of relief convoys only in areas that are under SPLA's full control, but not in contested zones. He then expressed appreciation of the relief work done by the operation lifeline Sudan, the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], Norwegian people's aid, and other relief organizations and assured them that the SPLM/SPLA will continue to provide passage and security to relief convoys passing through areas under SPLA control.

The press conference was attended by people from all walks of life, including two Sudanese diplomats from the Sudanese Embassy in Harare, who later shook hands and introduced themselves to the SPLM/SPLA leader. At the beginning of the press conference a press release on the SPLM/SPLA leader's visit to southern Africa was distributed. The correspondent for Radio SPLA accompanying the SPLM/SPLA leader says that the visit to southern Africa has been very successful. In all the countries he visited the SPLM/SPLA leader was accorded a spectacular red carpet treatment and wide media coverage.

In a similar development, the SPLM/SPLA leader, Dr John Garang de Mabior, was the guest of honor in the Quill Club in Harare last Friday [13 October] evening. The Quill Club is a very prestigious organization of journalists of all types in Zimbabwe. They invited the SPLM/SPLA leader to enlighten them on the general situation in the Sudan in an informal evening get-together.

While in Dar es Salaam the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade Dr John Garang de Mabior was given a red carpet reception by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania in the State House, Dar es Salaam, last Sunday, 9 October 1989. Ndugu [Comrade] Mwinyi expressed gratitude in welcoming Dr John and his delegation among their brothers and sisters in Tanzania. The SPLM/SPLA leader thanked President Mwinyi for the warm and brotherly reception accorded to him by the people of Tanzania including the ministers and senior government officials. I am very happy that I am in Tanzania again after 20 years, said Dr John Garang. Dr John was first in Tanzania in the time of his youth as a refugee student. He completed his O-levels [secondary school course] in Lushoto Magambo senior secondary school in 1963 and went to the USA for his undergraduate studies in 1965. He came back to Tanzania in 1969 to do research for his graduate studies.

I consider Tanzania as my second home. I am very happy to be back home again, said the SPLM/SPLA leader. Dr John then went to business to explain to president Mwinyi the purpose of his visit to Tanzania, which earlier took him to the independent southern African countries of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, and Mozambique. As he did to the leaders in southern Africa, the SPLM/SPLA leader explained to President Mwinyi the situation in the Sudan and presented the vision of the SPLM/SPLA with respect to the necessity to evolve and create the new united democratic Sudan. He also asked the support of President Mwinyi and that of the people of Tanzania for the SPLM/SPLA's peace program.

We are committed to peace and would welcome assistance from anybody that the movement requests, anybody that volunteers, or anybody that the de facto government in Khartoum may request to mediate, said the SPLM/SPLA leader, Dr John Garang de Mabior. Like the other heads of state that the SPLM/SPLA leader had met, President Mwinyi expressed very keen interest and desire in seeing peace come to the Sudan. The meeting was attended by ministers and senior government officials.

In a related development, the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade Dr John Garang de Mabior addressed a press conference and answered questions pertaining to the Sudan. He said that the objective of the SPLM/SPLA is not to take power in Khartoum but to create a new sociopolitical entity that transcends all forms of sectarianism and respects individuals' right to worship the religion of his or her own choice. He maintained that the Arab element and the African element in the Sudan are part and parcel of the Sudanese reality.

In this regard, the SPLM/SPLA leader condemned the idea of the junta's leader of partitioning the country. 'Umar al-Bashir has neither the legitimacy nor the power to partition the country even if he wished to. As to whether he will march on Khartoum, the SPLM/SPLA leader said: The Sudanese people marched twice on Khartoum in October 1964 and May 1985 without me. This issue is not to march on Khartoum, but to have a fundamental change in the country at a minimum cost of lives and property, he said.

The SPLM/SPLM leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, pointed out that the old Sudan has landed the people into 23 years of war out of 33 years of independence, adding that there is nothing that the old Sudan can serve the people. Sectarianism has done a great disservice, so we must evolve a new commonality and this is the objective of the SPLM/SPLA since 1983, said Dr John.

The SPLM/SPLA leader and accompanying delegation arrived in Tanzania on Saturday, 7th October 1989 and were welcomed to a red carpet reception at the airport by the Tanzanian Government.

The SPLM/SPLA leader gave a public lecture on prospects for peace in the Sudan at the university of Dar es Salaam at 3 pm in the afternoon of 9 October 1989.

Former Interior Minister Grants Interview

PM1710100189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Oct 89 p 3

[Interview with Mubarak al-Mahdi, former interior minister and "one of the prominent leaders" of the Al-Ummah Party, by 'Uthman Mirghani in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mirghani] The government in Khartoum has announced that it intends to begin investigating charges made against you. Some have gone so far as to suggest that you cashed a 30-million-pound check and transferred it to your account. What is your answer to these charges?

[Al-Mahdi] Anyone who examines the charges made by the military government in Sudan against the officials and politicians of the democratic regime can see that they are full of fabrications. The democratic regime was an open regime. It was as if you were in a fishbowl with everyone looking at you and in a position to see every move you made. There was also a free press and an independent judiciary. All the charges made in relation to that period were actually freely discussed under the democratic regime. [passage omitted]

Sudan was not a jungle where a minister could transfer a check to his own personal account. A minister had no connection with financial matters and did not handle public funds. That was the job of the finance minister or his representatives in the various ministries.

[Mirghani] Do you believe you will be tried in absentia?

[Al-Mahdi] I was tried in absentia under Ja'far Numayri's reign and sentenced to life imprisonment, but then 2 years later former President Numayri declared a general amnesty after national reconciliation.

These are, above all, political trials with no legal grounds in terms of corruption and with no reasonable charges. That is why they are given to special military tribunals under special laws, because the authorities know that civil courts would not consider feeble and fabricated charges used for political intrigues. [passage omitted]

If the independent Sudanese judiciary was given charge of trials and if investigations were carried out through that independent judiciary, which we respect and trust, then neither I nor any other politician outside Sudan would object to facing these charges and shouldering his responsibility in that connection.

I challenge the Sudanese military government to abolish the special military courts and send the corruption file to civilian justice and to an investigation committee, as indeed the judiciary requested. Then we would all be ready to face any charges made against us by an independent Sudanese judiciary provided the military government is also prepared to answer to the judiciary on the charge of defaming people if its charges are proved to be false. [passage omitted]

[Mirghani] What is your current role abroad?

[Al-Mahdi] Opposition work is essentially done internally. There is organized opposition inside the country on the basis of a charter signed by all the political and trade unionist forces with the exception of the National Islamic Front [NIF], the aim being to restore democracy.

[Mirghani] Who signed the charter, political leaderships under detention or others not in custody?

[Al-Mahdi] The charter was signed by authorized political cadres working inside secretly and effectively.

I would say that the part that I and others abroad play is contact and coordination with the leaderships inside the country, enlightening the people about the aims of the charter, and exposing what is going on inside the country.

The charter signed in Khartoum provides for the establishment of a civilian democratic regime, the rejection of the present regime and work for its downfall, the formation of an expanded government from the parties, the trade unions, patriotic members of the Armed Forces, and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], and a 5-year transitional period during which a provisional government would implement the charter program, which is based on three main issues, namely remedying the economy, tackling matters of security, and establishing peace.

At the end of the 5-year period general elections would be held to produce a new constituent assembly that would pass a permanent constitution whose political features would be agreed upon by the constitutional conference.

In the 5-year interim period there would be a civilian government with the participation of the parties, the SPLM, the trade unions, and the Army. There would be a sovereignty council consisting of three members representing the parties, the Army, and the trade unions. There would also be specialized economic and technical councils and a consultative council with representatives from the four groups: the parties, the unions, the Army, and the SPLM. The consultative council would act as a legislative institution.

[Mirghani] Is the SPLM a party to that agreement?

[Al-Mahdi] Representatives of the movement played some part in the negotiations in Sudan on the charter, and messages were also exchanged between the political forces inside the country and the movement to find out the movement's views on the plan. Another round is still needed with the SPLM's leadership abroad for final agreement on details of the charter.

[Mirghani] From what you have said, the charter draft suggests participation by the military in the interim government. Have contacts been made with the Army, or are you just assuming that the Army would participate in the government?

[Al-Mahdi] There are contacts with patriotic military personnel who reject the policies of the current military rule and who reject military rule as a matter of principle and who believe that the Army is one of the national forces with a role to play but it should not make itself a trustee over the nationalist movement.

[Mirghani] Is it true that a copy of the charter was sent to the military council?

[Al-Mahdi] I have no knowledge about delivery of a copy of the charter to the military council.

[Mirghani] The charter calls for a change of the current regime. Would such a change be made through confrontation or through reconciliation and the bridging of gaps?

[Al-Mahdi] There is only one way of reconciliation, and that is that the military group which seized power should accept the charter signed by all the political and trade unionist forces and should agree to abandon power and allow a new regime to be established according to the charter. [passage omitted]

[Mirghani] You have alleged that the NIF is behind the present regime. Khartoum has denied the allegation. What evidence do you have to support such claim?

[Al-Mahdi] When it comes to political classification it is easy for any side to deny charges, but the fact remains that the evidence supports what we say.

First of all, as far as individuals are concerned, many of the members of the military council, the cabinet, and other senior officials in the civil service and regional governments are known to belong to or to sympathize with the NIF.

There are no secrets in Sudan, where society is interlinked and interwoven in such a way that anyone can easily ascertain the background of others from the street talk that goes on. As soon as the names of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] members were announced the people began to examine their background and the people's "computer" came up with the conclusion that quite a number of them were NIF members and so were some members of the 40-man council which planned the coup, including Lieutenant General al-Bashir, Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih, Colonel Salah Karrar, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Brigadier General 'Uthman Muhammad Hasan, and Major Ibrahim Shams-al-Din.

Presidential Affairs Minister Colonel al-Tayyib Ibrahim was also a NIF member in university days and at the time of the national resistance movement he was sent to Libya to train NIF members.

A large number of ministers also are either NIF or Muslim Brotherhood members. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Nicaraguan President Holds News Conference

JN1910090489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, 18 Oct (WAKH)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has described his talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, as positive and fruitful, and said they dealt with several current Arab and international issues.

In a news conference he held in Manama tonight, President Ortega said the talks also dealt with the developments of the Iraq-Iran negotiations, the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and the situation in Nicaragua in particular and in Central America in general.

He said he agreed with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah to act jointly on all levels to support UN efforts toward a comprehensive and final breakthrough in the Iraq-Iran negotiations in light of Security Council Resolution No 598. The impact of the war, he pointed out, was not confined to the region; it hit many neighboring states and regions.

President Ortega said he discussed with his highness Nicaragua's economic needs and the ways of supporting its programs by the countries of the region. He stressed that the IMF recognizes these programs as effective, ambitious, and worthy of support.

He said that his talks with the amir of Bahrain also dealt with the debt problem affecting the Third World and the importance of boosting the dialogue among the countries of the South in support of their dialogue with the countries of the North.

President Ortega stressed that the viewpoints of Nicaragua and Bahrain are identical concerning the need for the two countries to do their utmost in cooperation with other countries to lay genuine foundations of peace in the region.

He added: I am confident that my first visit to Bahrain, my other visits to Kuwait and Qatar, and the visits I will pay to the region's states in the future, will draw appropriate formulas allowing stronger cooperation between Nicaragua and the countries of the region.

The Nicaraguan president explained that his talks in the countries he visited in the region—Bahrain, Qatar, and Kuwait—did not aim only to establish diplomatic relations, but also to open representation offices in our countries and to encourage visits among them. He expressed satisfaction with the response he met from the leaders of these states.

President Ortega expressed his hope that diplomatic relations between Nicaragua and the countries he visited can be established in the near future.

On the Palestine question, he stressed his country's support for and backing of the Palestinian cause and for the just and legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their usurped rights, determine their future, and establish their independent state on their soil.

He called for the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories and praised the valiant intifadah staged by unarmed Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

He said the intifadah caused the entire world community to change its positions on the Palestine question and to support the Palestinian people against the oppressive practices against them by the occupation forces.

He described the policy of detente currently adopted by both the United States and the Soviet Union and the agreements concluded between them as positive steps.

On the situation in Nicaragua, President Ortega stressed that the domestic situation is stable and that the ruling party has become a factor of stability in the country.

Kuwait

Nicaragua, Kuwait To Establish Relations

LD1710132289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0923 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua Tuesday said that he agreed with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to establish diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Nicaragua at ambassadorial level.

In an interview with Kuwaiti press, the Nicaraguan president further said his viewpoints with Kuwaiti officials on international issues were identical, noting that Shaykh Jabir has accepted his invitation to visit Nicaragua. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

He clarified that his visit to the region will have a great impact on promoting Nicaraguan-Arab relations particularly with Kuwait.

"Kuwait is a good example to be followed at the level of South-South dialogue countries," he went on.

Responding to a question on upcoming elections in Nicaragua, Ortega said that "It will be like a battle between us and the United States which is the major supporter for the opposition."

"The United States is seeking, through supporting the opposition, to win the battle politically after it lost on the military level," noting that the American Congress is currently discussing to finance political mercenaries in his country.

The Nigaraguan president, expressed optimism to win election despite the American economic siege on his country.

On the Palestinian cause he expressed his country's support for the Palestinian struggle and recognition of the Palestinian state, and called on Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab lands without pre-conditions.

Speaking on the Lebanese crisis, he said that his country exerts all efforts in the international arena to bring an end to the Lebanese 14-year-long tragedy.

Al-'Usaymi Denies Ortega Requested Military Aid

LD1810122989 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, denied a report by the U.S. CBS-TV network that Daniel Ortega, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, asked Kuwait to provide his country with military assistance during his visit to Kuwait.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, in a statement to KUNA, said "this report has no foundation of truth" and he added that President Ortega's talks in Kuwait, in addition to dealing with promoting bilateral relations and the exchange of views on many issues of concern to the Nonalignment Movement, centered, in particular, on ways to achieve peace in the Latin America and the Gulf. He said that the talks did not touch in any way on the question of military assistance to his country.

Replying to a question on whether the U.S. Government has tried to pressure Kuwait not to answer President Ortega's requests, Al- 'Usaymi explained that "there has been no contact from any U.S. party with Kuwait on this topic."

Defense Minister on Amir's Tour, Policy, GCC

LD1410092289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 14 (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir was quoted Saturday as saying the recent several-nation tour of his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, had further boosted Kuwait's international role and opened new horizons of cooperation with the countries he visited.

"The tour of his highness the amir which he started with Egypt and concluded with Niger had realized many objectives and deepened relations between Kuwait and those countries," Shaykh Nawwaf said in an interview with Kuwait daily AL-QABAS, published here today.

On his highness' visit to neighbouring Iraq, Shaykh Nawwaf said it was successful by all means, indicating it would [word indistinct] published here today.

On his highness' visit to neighbouring Iraq, Shaykh Nawwaf said it was successful by all means, indicating it would [word indistinct] positive results within the coming few days.

Shaykh Nawwaf spoke in details of the amir's talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt. He said the warm welcome accorded to his highness in (?these countries) illustrated the world's respect to Kuwait's policies.

He said Shaykh Jabir discussed with Mitterand all issues of concern to the Arab and Muslims as well as bilateral relations, indicating military cooperation between the two countries was existing for a long time.

Shaykh Nawaaf hailed existing relations between Kuwait and Egypt stressing military cooperation between them was strong and permanent and that the amir's visit had further strengthened those relations.

Shaykh Nawwaf told the paper that he would visit Egypt late next November for talks on coordination and military cooperation between the two countries.

The Kuwaiti defense minister underscored that the country had embarked on modernizing its weapons and improving the capabilities of its army in all fields.

He stressed that Kuwait's policy is to diversify its arms sources. "We have weapons from the East and the West and we don't want to be under the mercy of anyone. Our relations with all the world's countries are good and strong," he added.

Speaking on military cooperation among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Shaykh Nawwaf said all resolutions and recommendations taken in this regard had been implemented, adding the GCC was progressing on the correct path to realize its objectives in all fields.

He said defense ministers of the six-member GCC will hold a meeting in Riyadh early next month to discuss military coordination ahead of a Gulf summit meeting.

Shaykh Nawwaf expressed hope that peace and stability would be restored to Lebanon as soon as possible, indicating that the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee was the last chance for the Lebanese to bring an end to their 14-year-old ordeal "or violence and destruction will flare up anew."

He branded the Palestinian uprising as the "most honourable" phenomenon in "our history", stressing Kuwait had supported and would continue to support the Palestinian people to restore their usurped rights.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Pressure on Lebanese Deputies

LD1810220189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2003 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Oct (SPA)—In a statement to SPA, a responsible source denied the news relayed today by the German news agency which alleged that the Christian Lebanese deputies, who are calling for a quick Syrian withdrawal, are facing increasing pressure from the tripartite Arab committee.

The source said that this news is completely false, as the mission of the tripartite Arab committee—which originated from the Casablanca summit to deal with the Lebanese crisis—stems from the text of the resolutions declared by the committee when it started its mission, and when it resumed its efforts to establish a balanced compromise of the views of the Lebanese sides through the parliamentary negotiations currently taking place on Saudi territory.

United Arab Emirates

Tunisian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN1710150389 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Habib Ben Yahia, Tunisian secretary at the Foreign Ministry, who arrived in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] this morning, has stated that during his visit to the UAE, he will convey a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from his brother, His Excellency Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, concerning bilateral relations and within the framework of the continuous consultations between the two leaders.

Ben Yahia said he will also convey to his highness the president and the UAE people the greetings of Tunisian Government and people. He expressed hope that this visit will promote bilateral relations.

In a statement to WAM, the Tunisian minister commended the policy followed by his highness the UAE president, especially the great role his highness plays to clear the Arab atmosphere. This role, Ben Yahia said, had a considerable effect on Tunisians in particular, and all Arab peoples in general. In this regard, his excellency referred to the prominent role the president played in preparing the Arab atmosphere in a manner that made possible the convening of the Arab Casablanca summit and enabled it to achieve good results.

Ben Yahia described the UAE foreign policy as wise, balanced, and aimed at serving the Arab nation. He said: The UAE is at the forefront of countries that exert efforts to achieve concord among brothers and promote relations among the Arab states. The Tunisian minister added that the UAE plays an important role on the international arena which we in Tunis appreciate and highly value.

Asked about the unionist experience in the UAE which will celebrate the 18th anniversary of the union, and especially after Arab states have recently turned toward establishing unionist blocs, His Excellency Habib Ben Yahia said: The unionist experience in the UAE has succeeded in unifying the ranks and rendering importance to building and construction. This is something the entire Arab world needs.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Confers With PRC Ambassador

JN1710190789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received this morning PRC Ambassador Zheng Dayong, who conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of the PRC State Council premier. He also briefed the prime minister on the nature of the events which have recently taken place in the PRC. During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and the various spheres of cooperation between the two countries and ways to promote them.

Foreign Minister Returns Home From U.S.

JN1810214689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, returned home to Sanaa this morning from the United States after participating in the UN General Assembly meetings held recently in New York. He delivered our country's speech before the 44th session of the assembly.

In a statement to the SABA' news agency, Dr al-Iryani said that he met with a number of foreign ministers of fraternal and friendly states on the sidelines of the session, in addition to calling on U.S. officials with whom he discussed bilateral relations.

In his statement, he said that he had visited the U.S. cities of [placename indistinct], Detroit, and San Francisco, which have concentrations of Yemeni immigrants. He conveyed to them the greetings of the brother leader, Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He reaffirmed to them the interest and concern of the Yemeni leadership in the affairs of the immigrants to help solve all their prblems and overcome the difficulties they face in their places of immigration. He reviewed the developmental and democratic achievements of the glorious 26 September revolution in various fields, the foremost of which is consolidating the modern state under the democracy, stability, and growth currently seen by our country. He warned them against the enemies of the revolution and the republic, who, having failed to achieve their petty and spiteful goals inside the country, now attempt to transfer them abroad among the immigrants.

The brother deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member pointed out at the conclusion of his statement that he and his brother, Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister in the southern part of the homeland, participated in the celebrations of the brother immigrants of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions, which were organized by the general federation of immigrants in New York.

President Saddam Addresses Kurdistan Council

JN1810101489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has asserted that enabling our people in Kurdistan to attain a good, very good, or even an excellent standard of living depends on the way in which we lead our daily lives. This begins with the way we pave roads or maintain the cleanliness of our summer resorts and ends with the way we deal with one another as human beings.

Addressing the speaker and members of the Executive Council in the autonomous region during the swearing-in ceremony this morning, the president said: We, the Iraqi people, believe in autonomy. We Iraqis, whether Arabs or Kurds, believe that this is the solution to our situation. Therefore, we must apply the law without any hesitation. We must also exercise our powers as Executive Council as stipulated in the law.

The president said: We do not give privileges to the traitors, to the misled, or to deviants who are not ready to mend their ways.

His excellency said: What is required of you is to work according to your conscience in the service of your people in Kurdistan. By serving your people in the Kurdistan autonomous region you serve Iraq from the extreme north to the extreme south, and from the extreme east to the extreme west.

The president said: You must exercise your powers in full as stipulated by the law. If these powers are to be amended, that must be by an amendment of the law or by the president of the republic and nobody else.

The president affirmed: So go ahead and exercise your powers under the autonomy law. Throughout the life of the Ba'th Party it has never done anything that is not essential; it has not taken any step it did not intend to take, and it has not passed a law merely for propaganda. Everything was passed for the purpose of applying the principles it believes in. [passage omitted]

The president said: Regarding the entire autonomous region, my concern is to pursue the best and quickest means to enable our people in Kurdistan to enjoy a state of psychological, economic, and social stability like the rest of the Iraqi governorates. This is the target we must aim for.

Regarding the respect which our Iraqi people have for the Kurdish brothers they work with in other areas, the president said: They are members of the one Iraqi people. They are like anyone who moves from one village to another. The Kurd moves from the area of his paternal uncle to the area of his maternal uncle. By uncles I mean the Iraqis. I do not believe that an Iraqi has Iranian uncles. The Kurd moves freely from one village to another and from one quarter to another. It is the same Iraq, whether in the north or the south.

The president added: Iraqi territory is well-defined. It includes the north, south, center, east, and west. It is the same Iraq.

Regarding the council members' pledge to carry out their role under the umbrella of victory, peace, and reconstruction, the leader president said: This session is the session of the ambitious youth. [passage omitted]

President Saddam added: The difficult circumstances which have prevailed in Iraq caused rumors that the government will hold negotiations soon, will impose an economic blockade, or will do other things. This has caused anxiety in the Kurdistan autonomous region and has deprived our people of true stability and the ability to make final decisions. Rebels come and take control of a village and take everything the village has in order to use it for their rebellious purposes. They also fill their pockets with money. When the Army hears this, it comes to the village and asks the residents: Why did you allow them to come here? They tell the Army: The rebels were armed and we were not able to confront them. But the soldier does not understand this, and he tells them: You are Iraqis and you should not have given them food.

I understand these circumstances. What happened is that people do not enjoy stability, and when there is no stability people cannot make decisions, except the strugglers who are ready to endure difficult circumstances. There are many of these people, God be praised. I mean those who live in the uncontrolled border areas. Therefore, we have decided that they should be moved to enable them to get rid of this dualism in personality. At night, they are blackmailed by the rebels and during the day, they say they are with the government. Neither the government nor the rebels believe in the loyalty of these people. Therefore, this area has remained in trouble.

To end this dualism, at least for a time, we asked them to leave these areas, which cannot be controlled on a daily basis due to the difficult nature of the area as well as the winter snowfall. We also wanted our people to enjoy a decent life. All of us in Hawr al-Nasiriyah and Hawr al-'Amarah are Iraqis. We told them to gather here so that we can provide them with electricity, roads, schools, hospitals, and police stations.

If they remain in those distant mountains, however, we cannot reach or protect them under such difficult circumstances. They also cannot live a decent and stable life nor improve their economic conditions. Perhaps one of them might say that he had one and a half dunums of land from which he used to earn his living. What kind of life is this. He will remain hungry. I saw them personally. I do not quote books or reports. I saw them myself. I went to these very difficult areas by plane and I saw them. It is true he had a small piece of land and sometimes used the old-fashioned plough because the modern plough cannot reach these areas. Maybe he used to grow something on his land to make his living. But is this the life we want for them and which will enable them to send their sons to college or to school to become

doctors, engineers, officers, or soldiers? This is the life we want for them. They used donkeys and old-fashioned ploughs to plough their land and said: We live.

Even if he is satisfied with this life, we would not be satisfied. We want another standard of living for them. This is the whole truth. The rebels were defeated when the armies of aggression were defeated, and those who believed that killing and pursuing operations were useless have also given up these operations. They believed that their brothers, people, and homeland were right and they then came back. We welcome them. Despite the expiration of the pardoning period, we welcome those who want to return to the homeland.

The president said: The country does not expel its sons, except those who have chosen to knock on the doors of Paris, Washington, and London. They may do so for a thousand years, but they will never achieve what is in their heads. We are not afraid of a group of five or six persons who speak to the press. Is there anything mightier than the war we have waged? We will never find anything mightier before or after that war. So we are not afraid. Whoever wants to settle down and voice his own ideas on how to apply the autonomy better than us, let him come. We will discuss his ideas. He is exactly the same as the shepherd on the mountain who came to us and said this autonomy is no good, and we told him: What will make it good?

The president continued: We will consider any good ideas. And, if nothing better emerges, we will stay with what we have. But whoever imagines receiving privileges for his treason is mistaken. We will not give privileges to the traitors, misled, and deviants who are not prepared to mend their ways. The only privilege we can give them is to tell them: You are most welcome in your country. This country will not disown you.

What would the righteous citizens say if we gave privileges to these people? They would say: The misled and the deviants brought the Iranians to al-Halabjah and almost gave them al-Sulaymaniyah while we fought in the Iraqi Army; yet here you are giving them special privileges. What would our answer be then? We would not have an answer. What is required of you, brothers, is to work with your conscience in the interest of your people in the Kurdistan autonomous region. By doing so, you will be serving the whole of Iraq from north to south, and from east to west. [passage omitted]

The president said: Remember, the more you learn, the more you are capable of exercising your powers in a more precise manner. Also, the more you learn, the more encouragement you give us in the central government to consider the possibility of further improving your powers. The central government wants the al-Basrah governor to function better in order to reduce its burden. It also wants al-Anbar governor to function better to reduce its burden. Furthermore, it wants the minister of housing and reconstruction to function better to reduce the burden on Saddam Husayn and the leadership or the Revolution Command Council. Such improvement in performance will not only reduce our burden, but also enhance the feeling of responsibility and lead to an expansion of duties. When you work better, you do not only please us, but you also encourage us to consider means to improve your powers since you have attained a high level of responsibility and capability. We will encourage you to do more.

The president said: Therefore, I say read your powers carefully. If there are any vague points, ask for explanations from those who are in a position to explain them. Direct your questions to the central government or the presidency. Say: We do not understand such and such powers under such and such a law. Since you have come across similar situations, what is your ruling on them? We will give you our ruling in accordance with our responsibilities and jurisdictions.

The president said: You must exercise your powers in full as stipulated in the autonomy law. If you deem it necessary to amend your powers, then amending the law can only be done by another law or in accordance with instructions from the president himself and nobody else. When someone tells you that you should exercise these powers partially, or if Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, minister of local government, comes and tells you that you should amend such and such article this way, and then he does not tell you that this amendment is in accordance with a letter from the president, then you must not abide by that. And even if Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, who is directly second-in-comand after me, comes and does not tell you that the amendment is in accordance with Saddam Husayn's instructions, then you must not execute the order. Instead, you should continue to exercise your powers as stipulated in the law. This is because throughout the life of the Ba'th Party it has never done anything that is not essential, it has not taken any step it did not intend to take, and has not passed a law merely for propaganda. Everything was passed for the purpose of applying the principles it believes in. We the Iraqi people, believe in autonomy. [passage omitted]

Brothers, I am telling you that this is a temporary situation, God willing. This is because he, who fights for 8 years, protects Iraq, and emerges from the war as we have emerged, will be able to overcome difficulties of reconstruction. Such a case is unprecedented in the whole world. The Soviets, the Americans, the British, and the French fought before us. However, they did not emerge from war in the same manner that we emerged, God be praised.

Despite this, I say that 8 years of fighting and spending tens of billions [not further identified] on the war every year must have had an impact on our financial capabilities, and I do not say on our economic capabilities. This is because my assessment of our economic situation is that it is now stronger than it was before the war. By our economic situation, I mean that the people's energy is

now greater than it was before the war. However, financial capabilities to secure our needs are now less than before. This is because part of our financial payments is allocated to creditors.

Once, a year before the end of the war, requests for financial payments were submitted to me, and I approved the payment of large sums that were not commensurate with our resources, and I said: Let them ask for their needs, whatever they may be, because the most important thing is to protect Iraq from the enemies who want to take all of Iraq. It is not that important that our debts have reached $10 billion, for example. This is a simple matter, because he who can protect Iraq can achieve miracles for the Iraqis to improve their conditions. This is a temporary situation, God willing. It will pass in a short time, and our ability to pay will improve. You fought during the war, and he who fought with national zeal achieved better results in the fighting. What is required from you is to continue the struggle, and he who has national zeal will achieve better results in his work. Convey my greetings to our dear people.

Earlier, the speaker of the Executive Council of the autonomous region made a pledge to the leader President Saddam Husayn on behalf of the Executive Council members and general secretariat saying: Sir, we, your loyal soldiers, pledge to you that we will continue to execute all your directives accurately and honestly to serve our principles and people in the autonomous region. He stressed that the leader president's visits and directives have created a new situation in the region that reinforces self-confidence in its sons, and that this confidence is being promoted daily. He added that the leader president is a symbol for all Iraqis, Arabs, Kurds, and other minorities.

Attending the meeting were Local Government Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and al-Sulaymaniyah Governor Kakil Hamad Mawlud.

Ramadan Meets Soviet Official From Azerbaijan

JN1810193089 Baghdad INA in English 1740 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 18, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy premier, met here today with Mr. Raheem Ali Hasseinov [name as received], deputy premier of the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic, and his accompanying delegation.

Mr. Ramadan reviewed during the meeting the future of development in Iraq during peace time.

Mr. Hasseinov expressed during the meeting his deep respect to achievements and developments realized in Iraq.

GDR Friendship Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

JN1810181489 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad Oct. 18, INA—Mr. Muhammad Salih al-'Azzawi, chairman of the Iraqi-German Democratic Friendship Association, met here today with Mr. Burhcad Brentjes, chairman of the GDR-Iraqi Friendship Association and his accompanying delegation, now visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the developing bilateral friendly relations and means of promoting them. The visiting German delegation expressed its admiration over development schemes achieved in Iraq.

Shamir Meets Rabin in Wake of 'Falling Out'

TA1810161189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Shamir met in private with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin twice today, once before the Inner Cabinet session and then after it. Shamir and Rabin discussed political developments in our region. This is the first meeting between Shamir and Rabin since their falling out over the Mubarak plan. It must be said, however, that relations between the two men are still not what they were prior to Rabin's trip to the United States.

Alignment Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said today at a Labor Party convention that Shamir's declaration that Israel will not surrender is not realistic, and not acceptable to all Cabinet members. Ya'aqobi claimed that Shamir's statements may be great for pleasing a crowd, but not for leading a country.

Shamir Vows 'No Second Arab State' in Israel

TA1910054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir declared last night that there would be no second Arab state in the land of Israel, and Israel will not give in to pressure. The prime minister was addressing thousands of Christians from around the world at the Feast of Tabernacles convention in Jerusalem, organized by the International Christian Embassy.

[Begin Shamir recording] Let me make it very clear: There will be no second Arab state in Eretz Yisra'el. [applause] This is our land from the dawn of history, and it will be so always. While we believe in the possibility of peace and strive for it, we are not rushing into things blindly. We will not be pushed nor pressured. [applause] For Israel it must be peace with security, peace based on our right to this divinely promised land. [end recording]

Inner Cabinet Receives Report on MiG Incursion

TA1810124989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] The defense minister, the chief of staff, and the head of the Air Force's inquiry team this morning presented the Inner Cabinet with the report on the incursion of the Syrian MiG-23. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said he does not buy the contention that human error was involved. He demanded that the defense minister furnish an honest and clear answer. He also demanded that the level of readiness be raised in order to provide reponses to similar situations at any given moment, without if's, and's, or but's. The defense minister did not reply to Minister Levi.

Foreign Minister Arens asked the Air Force personnel about radar operations during the penetration, and Minister Nisim wished to know the scope of the damage that could have been caused had the aircraft been fully armed.

Ministers Moda'i, Navon, Bar-Lev, and Shahal sought various clarifications. Minister Weizman, a former Air Force commander, said that the method of guarding Israeli airspace is adequate but that the malfunctions arose in the decisionmaking process, as the report stated.

The deliberations will be pursued in the Inner Cabinet's next session.

CIA Experts Reportedly To Study Syrian MiG

TA1810113389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM reports that U.S. military experts came to Israel yesterday to examine the Syrian MiG-23 that landed in Israel last week and that several senior CIA officials will come to Israel this week to interrogate the pilot, Basim 'Adil.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the newspaper cites Pentagon sources as having said that the arrival of the U.S. experts was agreed upon in a telephone conversation between Defense Minister Rabin and his U.S. counterpart Richard Cheney.

It was reported this morning that the MiG was towed from the northern part of the country to an Air Force Base in central Israel by heavy equipment.

Rabin Denies Report

TA1810163589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today denied that he had spoken with U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney on the initial findings of the Syrian MiG that landed in Israel.

Rabin also denied reports that U.S. intelligence officials had arrived in Israel to examine the plane. During an outing today, the defense minister said he believes that war with Syria could be prevented.

[Begin Rabin recording] The MiG-23 MLD is the first plane of its kind in the possession of any element belonging to the democratic, free Western world. We will examine the plane first, but those countries with which we have intelligence ties are a different story. In the first stage, naturally, we will study the plane ourselves and by ourselves in order to learn about its new weapons systems. [end recording]

Rabin Discusses Syrian Strength, MiG Incident

TA1810184389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hayim Hecht during an Armored Corps exercise "this afternoon" in the Golan Heights—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Hecht] I regret to say that we have not had even a hint of a sign that Syria is seeking some path toward a dialogue with Israel, says the defense minister. They have remained as they have always been—hostile to us.

[Rabin] I have seen no sign of a substantive change—or even a slight one—in the Syrian policy of relying on the accumulation of power and of regarding military power as the key to both political and military solutions.

[Hecht] The second honeymoon of Libya and Egypt is another manifestation of Syria's increasing isolation in the Arab world. Syrian-Iraqi hostility is notorious, recalls Rabin, adding: These days there is a body of pragmatic Arab countries, which includes Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen, whose influence can be seen in their rejection of Syria's freedom of military action in Lebanon. Damascus seeks solutions to its political distress in military prowess; this can be seen in its chief of staff's visit to Moscow.

[Rabin] I assume the visit's main goal is to prepare President al-Asad's visit. The Syrians want more equipment, mainly in the sphere of quality weapons that will improve the situation in which it finds itself as a result of its isolation in the Arab world.

[Hecht] The defense minister, accompanied by the commander and senior officers of the Northern Command, observed the exercise while tanks charged targets on the basalt hills in the northern Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Mr Minister, what is the significance of such a firing exercise here in the Golan Heights, in full view of the Syrians' binoculars?

[Rabin] The exercise is part of regular training, and also part of my visit here—a show, you might say. It is also a demonstration of the capability of Northern Command armored units. Other related factors are the events so thoroughly covered by the media: Lebanon; the recent developments in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; and even the MiG incursion. We must remember that if we do not demonstrate our power, alertness, and preparedness, we stand less chance of preventing a war.

[Hecht] As for the Kuwaiti newspaper report that U.S. experts have arrived in Israel to inspect the Syrian MiG's flight systems, Yitzhaq Rabin says: It is too soon.

[Rabin] We will examine the plane first, but those countries with which we have intelligence ties are a different story. In the first stage, naturally, we will study the plane ourselves and by ourselves in order to learn about its new weapons systems.

[Hecht] Do you mean that no U.S. experts have arrived here in connection with the plane?

[Rabin] I know nothing of their presence here.

USSR Spokesman Says Israel Must Return MiG

LD1810200189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1752 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Moscow, Oct 18 (KUNA)—The Soviet Union said on Wednesday Israel will have to return to Syria a Soviet-built MiG-23 warplane which was flown to the Jewish state last week by a Syrian pilot, branded by Damascus [words indistinct] Israeli agent.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told a press briefing that Israel is obliged by international norms to return to Damascus the Syrian Air Force fighter. But he was quick to distance Moscow from the affair, saying "we have nothing to do with the issue, because it concerns Syria and Israel."

Gerasimov, meanwhile, denied rumors that the current visit to the Soviet Union by Syrian army chief of staff Hikmat Shihabi was in lieu with [as received] the landing in Israel of the MIG-23.

Meridor Discusses Remarks on U.S. Relations

TA1910091489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Someone else in the Likud has made a statement on the possibility of a confrontation with the United States. Minister Dan Meridor says that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is not striving to exacerbate ties with Washington, but merely expressed an assessment of the current state of affairs. Minister Meridor said that while the United States views the current situation as a matter of foreign policy, for us it is a question of survival.

Minister Meridor also said that the continued existence of the unity government is still the best option. He said he objects to a narrow-based government. He added that even if the Likud were to emerge stronger from early elections, it is still unlikely that the results would be definitive, and the two large blocs would still need each other. At the same time, he emphasized that the Likud's position is unequivocal: never to give the PLO any foothold.

Regarding the Abie Nathan case [in which media personality Nathan was sentenced to 6 months in prison for meeting with PLO leaders], the justice minister said that the law is the law and should be honored. Mr Meridor explained that he opposes an amendment to the law banning meetings with PLO personalities.

Arens Sees Soviet UN Vote as 'Positive Trend'

TA1710195589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens this evening remarked on what he termed the positive trend in the Soviet Union. The USSR abstained in today's vote at the United Nations on the motion submitted by the Arab countries to expel Israel from the organization. This is reported by our correspondent Yig'al Goren. Ninety-five countries voted against expelling Israel, 35 voted in favor, and 15 abstained.

The foreign minister expressed his regret that the Arab countries tried again this year to withdraw Israel's UN credentials. [passage omitted]

Delegation Leader Discusses Soviet Relations

TA1810142289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] Arye Levin, head of the Israeli interests office in Moscow, said yesterday that "the concept that Israel must not be totally dependent on the United States, and should open channels to the Soviet Union, must become an integral part of our political thinking. We are currently at a very important and sensitive transitional stage in our relations with the USSR, on the way to political and economic developments."

In an interview with HA'ARETZ, Levin revealed that during a conversation held 3 weeks ago between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the latter said that "despite all the talk regarding the Soviet Union's lack of interest in the Middle East, the conflict in the region has high priority on its agenda."

According to Levin, who arrived in Israel for the holidays, "The Soviets understand that whoever resolves the conflict in the Middle East will win international respect; but a superpower like the USSR, which has its prestige to consider, encounters difficulties in casting off the self-imposed constraints embodied in its relations with its Arab allies. This is also the reason that they continue supplying Libya and Syria with weapons, even though they know that they should not."

Levin claims that opposition to renewing full diplomatic relations with Israel comes from those same circles within the Soviet leadership that oppose perestroyka. Levin asserted that "there still are dark corners that prove that not everything has been opened in the USSR." He pointed out that the KGB operates against Israel just as it operates against the entire Western bloc. Levin accused those holding up the renewal of relations with Israel of stupidity, and asserted that today they are aware of the damage caused by past mistakes and are now trying to amend them. The senior diplomat rhetorically asked, "Do we suffer from some contagious skin disease, and therefore cannot be touched?"

The head of the Israeli representation in Moscow warned that the failure of perestroyka would lead to a rise in anti-Semitism, which is causing extreme worry for the Jewish community in the USSR. Levin said that "we cannot assume this responsibility upon ourselves and guarantee to the Jewish community that perestroyka will succeed. Therefore, last month we issued 20,000 visas to Jews, including 2,600 tourist visas." Levin revealed that even after the U.S. regulations went into force (the regulations limiting the distribution of U.S. visas to anyone already holding a visa to Israel), the delegation is still under pressure with between 300 and 700 Jews daily requesting visas to Israel. [passage omitted]

Levin explained that it is not important whether Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is received by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev: "It is important that he go and that practical cooperation be established with the Soviet Union." Levin said that senior figures in the Soviet administration told him that reciprocal visits of Soviet and Israeli notables and journalists are no coincidence, nor are the ongoing cultural exchanges.

Cameroon Seeking Site for Embassy in Tel Aviv

TA1810123889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] The central African state of Cameroon, which maintains diplomatic relations with Israel, now wants to set up an embassy in Israel. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that an expeditionary delegation from Cameroon has been looking for an appropriate site for the embassy in Tel Aviv for over a week now.

IDF Stages Raid on UN Relief Group Facilities

TA1810171189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Report by military correspondent 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] Security forces today conducted searches in various UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] facilities. Among other locations, they searched UNRWA facilities in the al-Mughazi and al-Duhayshah refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. Security forces also interrogated several UNRWA employees. Those interrogated were all local residents, and no foreign citizens were questioned. In the al-Mughazi refugee camp, a foreign employee attempted to stop the searches, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] filed a complaint with the police accusing the foreign employee of using violence against an IDF officer.

What led to the raids was an accumulation of prior information and tips regarding aberrant activities by UNRWA employees who assisted the intifadah in the territories. They are suspected of, among other things, sending money to the families of security detainees, and

deliberately extending aid to released security prisoners and hiring them for work. There also were attempts to assist residents who are not refugees and therefore not covered by UNRWA's mandate, as well as attempts to collect intelligence data on IDF activities in certain areas.

Great quantities of material were amassed during today's operations. This material raises suspicions that UNRWA employees were involved in incitement and activity that supported the uprising. Security sources said that they attach great importance to UNRWA's legitimate activities on behalf of the local populace, but the purpose of today's searches and interrogations is to make it clear that the fact that the facilities belong to UNRWA will not protect anyone from among the agency who conducts hostile and illegal activities.

Raids Concern UNRWA

TA1810212589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] UNRWA, the UN Relief and Works Agency for refugees, expressed concern tonight over the fact that the immunity of its installations in the territories has been harmed by Israel. These remarks were said after security forces interrogated 10 UNRWA workers suspected of involvement in hostile activities. The security forces also took away documents for inspection, but made no arrests.

An UNRWA spokesman told our correspondent Arye Gus that two foreign workers had been detained for questioning for several hours, and that an Arab worker from Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip is still under detention. The authorities also impounded documents, which were returned several hours later. The spokesman noted that a report has been relayed to the agency's supreme commissioner, who is currently in New York.

The UK consul in Israel today visited Gaza, where he met with three local notables: Hashim al-Shawwa, Dr Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Dr Muhammad Zayn al-Din. The British consul has recently evoked displeasure in Israel after entering Bayt Sahur and Nabulus, which were closed military areas at the time.

Police Arrest Associate of Faysal al-Husayni

TA1710160789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 89 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Text] The police in Jerusalem arrested Fu'ad Sulayman al-'Arif, administrator of the East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies directed by Faysal al-Husayni, and the Jerusalem Magistrate Court remanded him into custody for 10 days. He was apparently arrested on security-related suspicions.

Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem note that Al-Husayni left for Europe for a few days last weekend to attend an international congress.

'Senior' PFLP Commander Sentenced to 27 Years

TA1910092289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The Lod military court yesterday sentenced 'Uthman Maragha, a senior commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], to 27 years in prison. Maragha was convicted of responsibility for and the execution of dozens of terrorist attacks in Jerusalem during the past 5 years. Our legal affairs correspondent Amir Fink reports:

'Uthman Maragha, aged 23 from Jerusalem, was a senior PFLP commander. He is a resident of East Jerusalem and was found guilty of carrying out scores of attacks over the past 5 years, some of them even before the outbreak of the intifadah. He was arrested together with another 24 activists he had recruited for the PFLP. Some of them have been tried, while the others are still awaiting trial.

Maragha's deeds include more than 15 car torchings in Jerusalem, including the arson of 2 vehicles belonging to AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah in June 1987, when there was talk of him running for the post of mayor of Jerusalem. Maragha was also found guilty of hurling a Molotov cocktail at the British Consulate in Jerusalem, throwing a makeshift bomb at people who were praying at Shim'on Hazadiq Cave, and of torching cafes and restaurants in Abu-Tor.

Fortunately, despite the large number of attacks, only one man was hurt in all of them.

Maragha was also convicted of involvement in attacks which he commanded without actually participating in them. The Lod military court found him guilty on all counts and sentenced him to 27 years in jail.

Statistics on Soldiers Tried, Arabs Detained

TA1810173389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Since the beginning of the intifadah, 86 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and officers have been tried in military courts on charges of serious offenses such as violence, unjustified shooting, and manslaughter. Some 600 soldiers were charged with less serious offenses.

Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, military advocate general, who met today with reporters covering the territories, said that the majority of the offenses were perpetrated at the beginning of the intifadah, when instructions regarding ways of dealing with lawbreakers in the territories were still vague.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the military advocate general stated that 40,000 Arab residents have been detained since the beginning of the intifadah, 18,000 have been charged, and 1,900 Arabs are currently being held under administrative detention orders.

Palestinian Sources Report Uprising Fatalities

TA1810140889 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 18 Oct 89 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 16 October, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman stated that the number of Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories stood at 508. The number includes casualties caused by IDF gunfire only.

According to the HA'OLAM HAZE toll, the total number is 641.

According to Palestinian sources, however, the number of fatalities stands at 779, as per the following breakdown:

—563 dead by soldiers' and settlers' gunfire;
—82 dead from asphyxiation;
—53 dead from beating and electrocution;
—81 dead from other causes.

King Husayn Receives Message From Gorbachev

JN1810211089 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] London, 18 Oct (PETRA)—At his residence in London, His Majesty King Husayn received at noon today the Soviet ambassador to Britain, who conveyed a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to his majesty. The message contains greetings and respects to His Majesty King Husayn. It deals with the situation in the Middle East and the peace efforts regarding the Palestinian question in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His Majesty asked the Soviet ambassador to convey a response containing his majesty's appreciation to President Gorbachev and thanks for his initiative. It also contains his evaluation of the situation in the Middle East, the peace efforts in general, and his views on the last stage of the Egyptian-U.S. initiative regarding the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Prince Hasan on Economy, Jewish Immigration

JN1610215389 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, met at the Hashemite Royal Court today Jordanian journalists who represent local press institutions and world news agencies. His royal highness reviewed the situation in the region, stressing that the economic and financial situation in Jordan is improving. The regent pointed out that Jordan enjoys the confidence and credibility of international circles.

Discussing the positive outcome of the visit, which his majesty the king made to the United States in the first quarter of this year, and his majesty's recent visit to Canada as well as the visit which the crown prince made to the United States last month along with visits made by other Jordanian officials, the regent noted that these visits provided Jordan with about $247 million in the form of easy-term loans and financial assistance. His royal highness said he was confident that Jordan would overcome all attempts to curb its nationalist pan-Arab role in the region.

The regent commended the existing coordination between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization with a view to safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil. Both Jordan and the PLO, his royal highness said, are eager to support the residents of the occupied Palestinian territories and their uprising. His royal highness warned against certain developments indirectly affecting the Palestinian issue, particularly the open-door policy, which the Soviet Union is following towards Jewish emigration and the restrictions the United States is placing on Jewish immigration. These two developments, his royal highness said, would place demographic pressure on the Arab residents of the occupied territories and their local resources in case the Soviet Jews emigrate to Palestine.

Reports received from the Soviet Union, the regent pointed out, say that 200,000 Jewish citizens will be allowed to leave the Soviet Union in the next 3 years, while the United States announced that it will not admit more than 20,000 Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union every year.

Further on Prince's Remarks

JN1710084889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 89 p 1

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—One of the major but least publicly mentioned factors that led to Jordan's current financial problems is the political and economic price that the Kingdom paid for Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and it further faces a potential grave threat in the expected wave of Soviet Jewish emigration to the Zionist state, his Royal Highness Cown Prince Hasan, the Regent, said Monday.

"The Jordanian economy has shouldered more than its share of the burden—the creation of 200,000 jobs in the last 20 years is itself quite an achievement in view of the various economic factors that challenged it," the Regent said at an informal briefing for reporters at the Royal Court.

The Regent pointed out that while Jordan continued to extend financial support to the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Israel slowly transformed the occupied territories into "the second biggest market for its products after the U.S."

The occupation of the territories costs Israel annually around $1,100 million, but the trade surplus that the Zionist state enjoys with the West Bank and Gaza is around $5.6 billion, the Regent said.

"Jordan, which paid heavily to support the Palestinians (who fled their land to Jordan) over the past 20 years, has also paid a heavy price over the return of citizens from the Gulf area, and is again facing a danger," the Regent said. "Our media are preoccupied with the Egyptian 10-point proposal (on Palestinian-Israeli talks), the Lebanese peace efforts and the (Jordanian) elections, but... the Israeli media are preoccupied with the expected immigration of Soviet Jews."

The Regent pointed out that out of the 200,000 Soviet Jews expected to leave their country only 18,000 would be taken in by the United States. The rest will head direct to Israel and will end up in the occupied territories "at the expense of the Palestinians there, and, by extension, at the expense of Jordan since there could be another exodus" of Palestinians across the river, the Regent said.

"Therefore, I am sounding an alarm to our Arab brethren that (in such a situation) the stability of the Jordanian economy will be undermined," he said. Jordan, which withstood internal and external pressure on the dinar and other adverse elements, is the last Arab

wall against Israel, and if its economy collapses, it will be an ideal opportunity for Israel to exploit, after having already engulfed the economy of the occupied territories," he added.

Countering Israeli suggestions and contentions, the Regent reaffirmed that "Jordan was totally sincere in its decision to sever (legal and administrative ties) with the West Bank."

"They (Israelis) would like to interpret otherwise," he said, posing the "threat of transfer" of Palestinians in the occupied lands to Jordan, coupled with the "everlooming emigration" of Soviet Jews.

At the same time, he underlined the centrality of Jordan in efforts to develop the West Bank and Gaza. He said there was a recent request that he chair a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the People Living in the Occupied Territories and the theme of the meeting was to be "rural development" in the areas. "There is definitely a need for comprehensive development," he said. Jordan is ready to work in total coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in this context "if the PLO so desires," he said.

The first task awaiting the Lower House of Parliament, expected to be elected Nov. 8, is to discuss the Kingdom's fiscal budget for 1990, the Regent noted. "The precise background of the economic situation and the facts and figures should be clearly understood by (the Lower House) in an objective manner," he added.

The Regent said the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with which Jordan agreed on an economic reform programme earlier this year, considers the Kingdom as "a model of salutary change, not because we implemented their policies but because we were aware of our problems some time before they happened."

The Regent said though Jordan came under adverse pressure following its decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank, the measures adopted by the Kingdom were slowly bearing fruit. He cited as examples assistance offered by various governments, including the Arab states, the U.S., Japan and West Germany and others as well as the World Bank.

The Crown Prince, who visited Washington for talks with President George Bush and other senior administration officials and IMF and World Bank officials last month, said Jordan was to receive a total of $237 million in American aid for the fiscal year starting September 1989. Washington has agreed to provide $62 million in technical and food aid, $5 million in a supplementary grant, $15 million in housing guarantee bonds with 30-year maturity, $78 million in food facilities under general sales management programmes (GSM), $48 million in military credits and $2 million in military training assistance. In addition, the Kingdom will also receive $37 million from the U.S., he said without elaboration.

The Crown Prince also disclosed that a new gas field was recently discovered near the Iraqi border, in addition to the already productive al-Rishah well. "The gas situation is very encouraging," he said, adding that the location of the new find indicated that the gas deposits were in Jordanian territory.

Officials have said that the new well was discovered some two kilometres west of al-Rishah, well into Jordanian territory, confirming hopes that the deposits were within Jordanian territory. No figures on production capacities or deposits are yet available.

The Regent said the discovery had encouraged the American Hunt company to stay on in Jordan and the Canadian government to increase its technical assistance to the Kingdom.

Prince Stresses 'Important Role' of Mass Media

JN1810075089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, Tuesday stressed the important role played by the mass media in opening channels of communication with citizens, particularly at this time when Jordan is at the threshold of a new era, which will witness the general parliamentary elections for the first time in 20 years.

Speaking at a meeting with the staff of Jordan television and radio, Prince Hasan said Jordan was passing through a stage of evaluation and that was learning from its past experiences and presenting the perspectives of the future it wants.

He reaffirmed that Jordan had been able to overcome the difficult economic stage through the economic adjustment programmes it is applying and the credibility it enjoys in the international scene. Based on this, Prince Hasan noted, Jordan has received assistance from the sister Arab countries, Japan, the United States, Canada, the International Monetary Fund and other international aid agencies. Moreover, Jordan has been able to reschedule its debts, the Crown Prince pointed out.

Prince Hasan reviewed the positive outcome of the visits made by His Majesty King Husayn to the United States early this year and his recent visit to Canada. The Regent also referred to his own visit to the United States last month, in addition to the visits made by other Jordanian officials. He pointed out that such visits had come up with assistance and investment loans to Jordan.

Chief of Staff Receives Pakistani Military Team

JN1910203489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib, general chief of staff, received at his office this morning the Pakistani military delegation headed by Lieutenant General Imtiaz Warraich. Bilateral cooperation and issues of

common concern were discussed during the meeting, which was attended by a number of assistants to the general chief of staff, the Pakistani ambassador, and the Pakistani military attache in Amman.

Attack on Saudi Diplomat in Turkey Denounced

JN1710131889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Jordan today condemned a carbomb attack on a Saudi diplomat in Turkey.

Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said in a cable to Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz that the attack is the cowardly act of criminals against innocent people.

In Riyadh, Foreign Ministry officials said the Saudi Government is certain that Turkey will spare no effort to apprehend and severely punish the criminals. The 28-year-old diplomat in the military attache's office in Ankara was seriously injured when a bomb went off in his car yesterday. The diplomat has been flown to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment.

652 Candidates Registered To Run in Elections

JN1710112089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Amman—The legal period for nomination in the parliamentary elections ended yesterday. The total number of candidates for all election districts in the Kingdom is 652. They are distributed as follows:

Amman Governorate: In the First District 23 candidates competing for 3 seats; in the Second District 27 candidates competing for 3 seats; in the Third District 55 candidates competing for 5 seats; in the Fourth District 19 candidates competing for 2 seats; in the Fifth District 53 candidates competing for 5 seats; in the Sixth District 28 candidates competing for 3 seats.
Irbid Governorate: Irbid and suburbs 70 candidates competing for 9 seats; Jerash District 20 candidates competing for 2 seats; 'Ajlun District 32 candidates competing for 3 seats; al-Ramtha District and Bani Kinanah 18 candidates competing for 3 seats; al-Kurah District and Jordan Valley 18 candidates competing for 2 seats.
Al-Balqa' Governorate: 42 candidates competing for 8 seats.
Al-Zarqa' Governorate: 63 candidates competing for 6 seats.
Al-Mafraq Governorate: 22 candidates competing for 3 seats.
Al-Karak Governorate: 66 candidates competing for 9 seats.
Ma'an Governorate: 28 candidates competing for 5 seats.
Al-Tafilah Governorate: 17 candidates competing for 3 seats.
Northern Bedouin region: 19 candidates competing for 2 seats.
Central Bedouin region: 18 candidates competing for 2 seats.
Southern Bedouin region: 14 candidates competing for 2 seats.

A responsible source in the Interior Ministry said that seven nominations were turned down, while another candidate dropped out. The Jordanian News Agency has learned that the governors of Amman, Irbid, and al-Zarqa rejected seven nominees for the House of Representatives—three for applying in districts other than those legally assigned to them, although they were notified that they had the right to run in their own districts. The remaining four were rejected for the following reasons: one had held Jordanian nationality for less than 10 years; the second did not meet the conditions for Jordanian nationality; the third, a woman, held a foreign nationality in addition to the Jordanian nationality; and the fourth was a convicted felon, which prevented his nomination for election.

It is noteworthy that all these decisions are revocable before the specialized courts. The source added that over the last 2 days people have been rushing to collect their election cards and that the rate of voters has improved in various areas of the Kingdom. The source urged citizens to collect their election cards quickly because the period assigned for collection of the the cards expires at the end of the month. These cards are required for all citizens to practice their right to vote.

Masa'idah Discusses Elections

JN1810091489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The government has refrained from applying provisions in the Election Law banning political activists from running in the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections and seven candidacy nominations were turned down because of procedural reasons, Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah said Tuesday.

"Not a single nomination was turned down on the grounds that the candidate had affiliations with any illegal political party or group," Masa'idah told a press conference held at the Ministry.

"This decision followed His Majesty King Husayn's orders, wishes and directives to allow all Jordanians with no exception to practice the holy right (of elections) under the umbrella of the Constitution," he said.

The marked government abstention from applying Article 18 E of the 1986 Election Law and its amendments to bar activists of illegal political parties and groupings from the Nov. 8 elections marked a major turn in the Kingdom's history of elections. It also partly

answered questions raised by local, Arab and internatioanl analysts and commentators over the Kingdom's intentions to allow the existence of political parties, banned since 1956.

Effectively the decision meant that at least a dozen widely known political activists of parties such as Communists, Ba'athists, socialists and leftists who describe themselves as "progressive nationalists," will be able to address the electorate publicly and seek a role in the Kingdom's decision-making process from the Parliament floor.

Almost all of them have clearly pledged that their activities, election platforms and goals will be adapted to the national needs of the country within the framework of the Constitution.

A known political activist, who until today was expected to be the only candidate who would be barred based on his political background, said that the Nov. 8 elections "constitute a turning point towards democracy in view of continued calls over the past 20 years."

The same candidate, a self professed "Communist," told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview that he "respects religion," and would work on evolving and developing his ideas sufficiently to meet national needs.

Masa'idah said Tuesday that the total number of candidates running for the 80 seats in the Lower House of Parliament had reached 662 when the three-day nomination period expired Monday. But appeal courts will rule on contested nominations before a final list of candidates is issued on Oct. 25.

The seven turned-down nominations included those of three tribal figures—Mashhur Hadithah, Nayif Kharayshah and Tirad al-Qadi—who wanted to run for seats not reserved for bedouins; and three who failed to meet the relevant nationality criteria—Nimr Sarhan, Huda al-Rabadi and Faysal Faq'awi. The seventh, who was not named by the minister, was disqualified for a past criminal conviction.

Masa'idah said that the ministry would now dedicate its efforts to monitoring the course of the election compaigns and to ensure that candidates and voters abide by the relevant laws and regulations.

Masa'idah said that 20,000 government employees and security officers would be on duty at district offices on election day to ensure that the polls were conducted in a "safe, free and honest atmosphere."

The minister urged all registered voters to pick their voter cards and "practice their right to elect their candidates to Parliament."

According to the minister, the number of voters who collected their voter cards until Monday, stood at 554,371 out of 1,200,000 registered voters. "This is a very low percentage. We hope that it will reach at least 90 per cent of the registered voters by the end of this month," Masa'idah said.

The minister stressed that the ministry would not be able to extend the period allocated for distribution of voter cards beyond the end of October. "Because each stage has an allocated time and we cannot delay our work and accumulate it for elections day."

Television coverage on elections day, according to Masa'idah, will include results every three hours, but "we will not name the leaders because we do not want to create sensitivity."

Editor Examines Palestinian Issue in Elections

JN1410104289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 89 p 4

[By Walid al-Sa'di, editor in chief]

[Text] Last Sunday, two "giant" candidates for the Nov. 8 national elections used soft gloves to slug it out over their campaign programmes at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. Both competitors, Sulayman 'Arar and Tahir al-Masri, are in fact old hands when it comes to domestic and international issues affecting the country, for both are deemed to varying degrees as part of the "establishment" and figuratively speaking privy to the ins and outs of government, past and present. Of course both seek to be part of any future government that will ensue from the projected elections. And for sure, both seek vindication for their thoughts and views from their respective constituencies. Both know only too well that their previous involvement in the governments of Jordan at the level of cabinet member and deputy prime minister was without formal popular suppport and that the Nov. 8 elections would provide them with the opportunity to "legitimise" their respective rights as deputies to speak on behalf of their differing constituencies. A loss at the elections for either one of them, therefore, would be devastating and would undermine the loser's protestations that he speaks on behalf of a sizeable segment of the Jordanian people. Perhaps this is more academic than real as both are projected to be among the winners in the elections.

Still the two gentlement drew record crowds of interested voters to hear them debate the issues that figure highly on the voters' agenda. It appears that both men have calculated that one of the highest priorities as far as the electorates are concerned is the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, as that subject developed into their main theme on that eventful autumn evening. There is no definite way to determine how that important subject ended up dominating their "debate" except to postulate that it weighs heavily in their sub- conscious. At the end of the ensuing discussions the audience must have got the distinct signal that no other matter is worth mentioning whenever the subject fo the Palestinian-Jordanian relations comes up. To be sure both political "gladiators" were more than eloquent in their own

separate ways and styles to define the Jordanian-Palestinian relations as a strategic one that stems from historical fact and national duties. Where they differed may explain why the two saw necessary to highlight the subject in such a way as to overshadow other relevant issues that many voters regard as equally pressing in their own right and in revealing the true colour of any candidate seeking office and promoting his political fortunes in the Kingdom.

One would have thought that by now the 1988 Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the West Bank has put Jordanian-Palestinian relations on a new plateau which is vivid, clear and lasting. The factors and circumstances which have led to that historic decision are by now common knowledge, and it is therefore superfluous to go over the same ground on a matter which has been decisively decided in 1988. Accordingly, the concentration of the 'Arar-al-Masri debate on that subject left many voters asking the run of the mill question: "What about the other issues gentlemen?"

The tragedies that ensued from the Palestine case are plentiful and the many wrongs that were committed in the heart of the Arab World in its name are surely among them. Thus when the democratisation process was suspended, martial laws were introduced for decades on end and scores of other priority issues were held in abeyance. Till the day of liberation of Palestine is achieved, the aftermaths of the Palestinian conflict are indeed formidable.

I suspect, however, that what is uppermost on the mind of Jordanian voters are matters that have yet to be thoroughly debated by candidates and go beyond the Palestinian dimension per se. And what candidates whisper in their private living rooms on the missing issues no longer satisfies the aspirations of their supporters. To be blunt about it the people seek and call for publicly pronounced positions on a variety of issues that leave no room for different interpretations. The list of such subjects and concerns is long and touches upon issues ranging from religious, ethnic and sub-national, including Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the Kingdom, to the current wide application of martial law. Sandwiched between these holy debated generic subjects one would find many mundane subjects embracing school and university curricula, unemployment, bread and butter issues and the general economic and fiscal situation. On the regional and international political scene, voters want to know how their country's policies are formulated and executed. In these contexts, voters are interested to discover how their country's relations with other countries including Arab ones keep on fluctuation between what seems to be two extremes. Above all they are concerned about the future of their country and how best to preserve its stability and progress on new and enlightened foundations. Viewed against this postulation, voters are no longer satisfied with the chronic injection of issues such as Jordanian-Palestinian relations, as important as they may be, if that means the non-introduction of other equally important subjects that affect the lives and future of Jordanians, whatever their origin is. Part of the pent-up resentment generated by "concealment of other issues related to the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is the deep and unshaken conviction that the genesis of the entire Palestinian case can be found in the proposition that the Arab house was not in order and that its perpetuation lies in large part to the continuation of that unfortunate Arab state of affairs. [no end quotes as published]

So while Tahir al-Masri wants to be nostalgic about the good old days which governed the Jordanian-Palestinian relations and Sulayman 'Arar seeks to transcend that stage and begin to look forward to futuristic relations between them on the basis of new facts and realities, voters are led to beleive, by the two prominent candidates, that other critical issues remain to be dwarfed by the Palestinian-Jordanian equation. And that—where the voters and candidates differ!

Abu-al-Lam' Wants Syrian Timetable for Withdrawal

NC1910152689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Statement by Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lam', Foreign Ministry secretary general, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after meeting with General Michel 'Awn at the B'abda Palace on 19 October—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Lam'] We are not telling the Syrians to leave within 24 hours. We are telling them to draft a timetable for their withdrawal and to give us some guarantees. They can then withdraw within 5 years, may God be with them. However, the Syrian Army cannot remain on the pretext of defending Lebanon's Arabism. The Syrian Army cannot remain with tons of 240-mm shells to entrench Lebanon's Arabism and defend reforms.

We are saying yes to reforms. We have approved everything, we have approved everything that was submitted. We ask that they give us something in return, but they tell us they can't. Therefore, I believe that if nothing happens within the next 24 hours the deputies should return so that we can consult with them. The deputies are tired and we thank them for their work. The Arab committee is also tired.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Abu-al-Lam'] Do not ask me, ask the sister [Syria]. It says it is here to defend Lebanon's Arabism. We have proved our Arabism. As for reforms, we have approved all the reform demands.

[Correspondent] What is the role of the Arab tripartite committee?

[Abu-al-Lam'] Prince al-Faysal was in Damascus yesterday. We will see what he returns with. We have received no news yet. Why this intransigence? For 6 months we have been saying yes. We then reached the crux of the issue, the modalities of the withdrawal, but were told we could not talk about this subject.

[Correspondent] There is talk about the opening of a direct or indirect dialogue between B'abda and Damascus. Is there anything of this sort?

[Abu-al-Lam'] On numerous occasions I have stated there is nothing to prevent a meeting between President al-Asad and Prime Minister 'Awn. It is not a personal quarrel. Each seeks to promote his country's sovereignty. General 'Awn is defending sovereignty and independence. No true Lebanese citizen finds fault with him for this. There are the loud voices with their cheap criticism. However, can anyone cast doubt on a person who is calling for sovereignty, independence, and the withdrawal of occupation armies? The only positive thing that has happened at al-Ta'if is that they say that the dispute is between Lebanese. For 15 years they have said it is an inter-Lebanese dispute. The deputies met and agreed on all Lebanese issues in 3 or 4 days. We agree with everything. Therefore, there is no dispute between Lebanese. There is a dispute between Lebanon's sovereignty and Syrian occupation.

'Awn 'Gangs' Violate Cease-Fire Agreement

NC1810185489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] 'Awn gangs violated the cease-fire agreement this evening. The town of 'Aytat has been coming under mortar, tank, and flat trajectory gunfire since 1730 today. Kayfun and al-Ma'rufiyah were also subjected to a similar bombardment that lasted until shortly after 1800.

In another development this afternoon, the al-Shuwayfat area came under mortar fire and bursts of heavy machinegun fire at 1600.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 18 October reports: "A brief shooting incident took place this evening on the Bsaba-al-Ma'rufiyah combat line. Intermittent bursts of gunfire were also directed at Kafr Shima from al-Shuwayfat."]

Group Attacks Syrian Checkpoint in North

NC1910094589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its groups fired on a checkpoint manned by members of a Syrian special forces unit at the Majdalayya intersection of the Tripoli-Zgharta road at 0200 today. Several troops were wounded. The Syrian forces responded by firing flairs and conducting an extensive search. The organization pledged to continue its anti-Syrian operations until the last occupation soldier leaves the country.

Fatah Dissidents Reportedly Receive Weapons

NC1910091889 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 4

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY yesterday cited security sources in the north as reporting that since 13 October small gunboats have been unloading weapons at the Fatah dissidents' naval base in the al-Zuqaq al-Thalith area of the Nahr al-Barid coast. The sources added that it is likely that the weapons are being transported from a ship anchored out at sea. The same sources believe that the weapons must be coming from a foreign state other than Syria because weapons from Syria are usually transported overland.

Council of Ministers Reviews Political Situation

JN1710190289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. During the meeting, an overall political review was conducted and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained the outcome of a number of developments in the Lebanon situation, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and some current contacts in the Arab and international arenas.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed the work of the services and economic committees and discussed the topics on its agenda. Those topics included a draft law for an agreement to finance the expansion of the two yeast plants in Damascus and Aleppo and for financing the Hamah-Saraqib highway project and the 'Ayn 'Isa-Qantarah highway. The Council of Ministers also resumed discussions on the provisions of the State Council draft law. It then reviewed a number of other topics and made the necessary decisions.

Oil Minister Interviewed on Production Prospects

PM1710143389 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17 Oct 89 pp 40-41

[Interview with Syrian Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Antonios Habib by Khalil al-Taqiyy in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Taqiyy] Work started recently on two new production oilfields in al-Tanak and al-Tayanah. What expectations do you have with regard to these two oilfields? And are there any other fields whose production will be announced?

[Habib] In fact Syria has made great strides toward increasing its oil production. We have actually announced the start of production in the two oilfields in question at an estimated output capacity of 50,000 barrels of light oil a day during the first stage. The two new model projects are at the start of their production, and we have plans to study their actual dimensions and reserves and are working to expand them. And on this occasion I can say that other fields were discovered recently in cooperation with the organs of the Oil and Mineral Resources Ministry and the contracting companies. [passage omitted]

[Al-Taqiyy] What is the reality of oil discoveries in Syria, and what are their prospects?

[Habib] Oil and gas exploration operations in Syria are being carried out rapidly, both by the Syrian Oil Company and by the service contract companies with which we cooperate in that regard. As a result of these efforts new oil discoveries have been made in Syria. Some have started production; some are being developed; and some are being studied with a view to development and operation. But we must point out that dealing with oil requires patience, huge efforts, and major investments. And we believe that we in Syria need only time and investment to achieve our people's aspirations and fulfill our leader's wishes, so that Syria can occupy its rightful position in the economic field, just as it occupies it in the political field. [passage omitted]

Internal Trade Minister Meets CPSU Delegation

JN1810211689 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1502 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 18 Oct (SANA)—Hassan al-Saqqa, minister of supply and internal trade, today received CPSU Central Committee member Vladimir Viktorovich Grigoriyev and his delegation, currently visiting Syria.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed friendly bilateral cooperation relations and affirmed the need to promote and develop cooperation and to exchange resources.

'Wager' on Israeli Moderation Warned Against

JN1910084889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN says: Yesterday, Shamir reaffirmed his known constants and categorically rejected a withdrawal from a single inch of the occupied Arab territories. He said he is not concerned with what is happening in world capitals to bring about peace in the region. With these Israeli constants, which reject peace, what is the use of wagering on an alleged moderation in the Zionist entity—a moderation for which some are exchanging proposals and initiatives that do not serve the pan-Arab interests?

In its article entitled "After Shamir's Statements," TISHRIN stresses that what was taken by force can only be regained by force. Negotiations, dialogue, and circulation of proposals are something else, and for them to succeed, the Arabs must be a real force on the ground. Strategic parity achieves and maintains a just peace.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Message to PDRY's Al-'Attas

LD1510062289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 14, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan has sent a congratulatory message to Aden addressed to Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of Yemen People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the revolution of that country.

While expressing congratulations on the occasion the message wished for further expansion of the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries for the benefits of the people's of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Yemen People's Democratic Republic as well as peace and security in the world.

According to another report, Sultan 'Ali Kashtmand, chairman of the Excecutive Committee of the Council of Ministers and 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan have sent similar messages addressed to the prime minister and foreign minister of that country as well.

President Receives Islamic Conference Delegations

LD1510144489 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, 15 Oct (BAKHTAR)—Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan received and met this morning the delegations of the Islamic countries and organizations, the participants of the conference on the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] correspondent reports that this meeting, which took place in Golkhana Presidential Palace, was also attended by Sarsaw Mangal, deputy prime minister and 'Abdul Ghafor Baher, minister of Islamic affairs and endowment.

At the beginning of this ceremony, the minister of Islamic affairs and endowment spoke briefly to introduce the guest delegations to the president of Afghanistan.

Then in his speech, esteemed Najibullah expressed thanks for the active participation of the delegation in the conference and said: I am very pleased to meet you, the representatives of the Islamic countries and organizations who took the trouble to come to our country. I hope you have become aware of the realities of Afghan society during your visits to various parts of Kabul City, Balkh Province and meetings with our Muslim people in the mosques, Takeha Khana [prayer place] and other sacred places of the country, and will inform the people of your Islamic countries about them.

Esteemed Najibullah, shed light about the political-military situation of the country and said that our country, Afghanistan, is going through harsh, difficult, and hard days, but also destiny-making and proud days. As we have said several times, and as recent incidents showed, the path of the military solution is not the path to winning and success, but, is a vast and useless course. It will not bring anything but the slaughter of the Muslims. Those people who have chosen this path, either have less political knowledge or they don't have their own independence and this solution has been imposed on them in order to destroy their homes on the instruction of the foreigners, and to bathe in blood hundreds of the Muslims.

Esteemed Najibullah added that we are in favor of the fact that we should remove the guns from the shoulders of Afghanistan's people and to ensure peace and tranquillity which is the lawful right, desire, and demand of our people. The United States and Pakistan do not pay any attention to these lawful rights and desires of Afghanistan's people. Therefore, they stir up bloodshed and fratricide in our country in order to implement their sinister goals in this country.

Esteemed Najibullah explained the new peace proposals and measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan for the peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan and added: As you know, on the occasion of Melad-e Muhammad, may peace be upon him, I requested recently that other Islamic countries such as Jordan, Iran, Turkey, Libya, Iraq, Bangledash, Yemen, and Indonesia act as mediators in order to establish peace and end war in Afghanistan.

The BIA correspondent reports that then, a number of the representatives from the delegations from the Islamic countries and organizations, in their speeches, expressed concern and regret for the intensification of war in Afghanistan and the missiles and bloodshed.

They considered the draft proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan to be a logical and principled path in order to achieve peace and end bloodshed, and regarded these measures as conforming with the sacred religion of Islam and Islamic tenents.

Then (Seraj Madani Nezami), a worker in the court of (Nezamoddin Olaya) from India presented a gift from (Nezamoddin Olaya), and (Ramollah Mawlawi Abdol Ghani) from Uzbeck Soviet Socialist Republic also presented a gift to Esteemed Najibullah, which were accepted with thanks.

At the end, esteemed Najibullah expressed appreciation for the positive participation of the aforementioned delegation in settlement of the issue of Afghanistan and considered their proposals as a manifestation of realism and love for Islam, and desired their further cooperation and that of the other Islamic countries in ensuring peace and the end of war in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Message to Red Crescent Society

LD1610083489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 15, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in his message released here today on the occasion of the week of the Red Crescent Society, has highly appreciated the humanistic services renderd by the Afghan Red Crescent society, particularly under the present conditions of fratricidal war in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society, says the message, has been able to develop its activities at national and international levels and has been ready to help those compatriots who have been injured from the war. However, even this charity organisation has not remained to be safe from the rocket attacks of the opposition which is in gross contradiction with the human rights.

As a result of a recent rocket attack, the Afghan Red Crescent Society lost two of his employees and twelve others got injury. President Najibullah in his message once again expressed his deep condolence to the bereaved families as well as to the society's members about this sad incident.

"125 years of service to protect human life" is this year's slogan of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent which is calling on all the like organisations as well as the nations of the world to participate in the provision of facilities to protect the human life, to pay respect to human dignity as well as to expand humanistic activities.

President Najibullah in his message is calling on all the countrymen not to spare their material and moral contributions to this philanthrophic organisation enabling this non-governmental body to develop its activities for the good of the humanity.

Islamabad Reports Mujahidin Successes in Khowst

BK1610154289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have foiled the Kabul regime's efforts to send military supplies and food to Khowst. The Afghan interim government says that a convoy escorted by hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles was sent to Khowst 3 days ago and was ambushed at (Safid Sang) in Lowgar Province. In retaliation, three military aircraft of the Kabul regime heavily bombed three surrounding areas, killing one elderly person and a child.

In another operation, the mujahidin blew up the (Khatun) Bridge near Pol-e Khomri in Baghlan Province, cutting the Salang Highway which links Kabul with the Soviet Union. Forty Kabul regime soldiers were killed and 11 wounded in this attack.

Mujahidin Tightening Siege Around Jalalabad

BK1810155089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured the newly built Kabul-Parvan road after heavy fighting in Sufian region. The MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, the news agency of the Islamic interim government of Afghanistan, says that in retaliation the Kabul regime forces bombed areas along the road, killing six civilians and wounding five.

The mujahidin carried out an artillery attack on Bagram Airport and destroyed a military aircraft.

According to the news agency, the mujahidin have also tightened the siege around Jalalabad and have foiled all efforts of the Kabul regime to break this siege. Last week, the mujahidin carried out heavy rocket attacks on the Kabul regime's military positions in Jalalabad, killing 17 Kabul soldiers.

Kabul Planes Attack Villages; Civilians Killed

BK1910023289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say Kabul regime fighter planes resorted to indiscriminate shooting and missile-firing at the villages between (Dehnao) and (Tangey Wagjhan) alongside the Kabul-Lowghar Highway. They fired at least 20 missiles on these villages. The news agency of the Afghan Interim Government, MIDIA, reports that a large number of civilians, including women and children, were killed in the bombing and missile attacks.

India

Further on Call for Elections in November

'Assembly Elections' Announced

BK1810130889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Assembly elections in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh will also be held next month simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections. This was announced by the chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, at a news conference in New Delhi today. He said requests have been received from these two states for holding the assembly poll. As already reported, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa will also have elections for the state assemblies. Mr Peri Sastri said if any more requests are received from state governments for simultaneous election, these will be considered.

The chief election commissioner also announced the details of the poll program. Polling will be held on 3 days—the 22d, 24th and the 26th of next month. The notification for all the states and Union Territories

which are going to poll will be issued on Monday, the 23d of this month. Polling will spread over 2 days in respect of only two states of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. In all other states and union territories, it will be a single-day poll. While polling all over the country will be over on the 22d and the 24th of next month, Punjab, Sikkim and parts of Uttar Pradesh will go to poll on the 26th. According to the poll program, for Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Tripura, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and the union territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry and Delhi, the last date for filing of nominations will be the 30th of this month. Scrutiny will take place the following day and the last date for withdrawal will be the 2d of next month.

Further on Election Schedule

BK1910033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Elections to Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh assemblies will also be held along with the Lok Sabha poll. The chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, told newsmen yesterday that this is being done in response to requests received from these two states. As already reported, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, and Goa will also have assembly elections simultaneously with Lok Sabha poll.

Manipur has also requested the election commission to hold its assembly poll along with the Lok Sabha election.

Elections to the ninth Lok Sabha will be held on 3 days—22d, 24th, and 26th of November. [passage omitted]

In respect of contestants from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, and the union territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli, the last date for filing nominations is 31st of this month. The scrutiny [of nominations] will be done on 1st November. The last date for withdrawal in these five states and one union territory is 3d November. Polling will be held on the 24th.

Forty-two Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttar Pradesh will go to the polls on the 24th [of November]; 33 on the 26th; and in 10 other constituencies of the state the polls will take place on both the days.

In Gujarat and Rajasthan, the last date of filing nominations is 1st of November; scrutiny the next day; and the last date for withdrawal is 4th November. These two states will go to the polls on the 24th.

The last date for filing nominations in Karnataka is 31st October; scrutiny is on 2d November; and the last date for withdrawal is 4th November. Polling in Karnataka will be held on the 24th.

For Punjab, the last date for filing nominations is the 30th of this month; scrutiny is on 31st; and the last date for withdrawal is 2d November. Polling for Lok Sabha only in Punjab takes place on the 26th.

In Sikkim, the last date for filing nominations is 2d November; scrutiny is on the 3d; and the last date for withdrawal is 6th November. Polling will be held on the 26th.

Mr Peri Sastri said about 60 percent of the work relating to registration of political parties has been completed. About maintenance of law and order during the elections, he said the commission is in touch with the authorities concerned.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said simultaneous elections to the assembly and the Lok Sabha in the state are not possible. The political situation in Punjab is still very fluid, and assembly elections will not lead to the formation of a stable government in the state. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh yesterday, the governor said elections to the state assembly will be held after the Lok Sabha poll.

Newspapers Examine Decision

BK1810081289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 18 Oct 89

[By Anil Rattan]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 18 (AFP) –Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has taken a bold initiative by calling for early elections to Parliament, but it is premature to predict the outcome, Indian newspapers reported Wednesday [18 October].

The capital's newspapers said Mr Gandhi and his ruling Congress (I) party had sprung a surprise on the opposition by voting for early elections, which are to take place on November 22 and 24.

The Election Commission announcement late Tuesday charged India's political atmosphere, and editorials said the next general elections might turn out to be the toughest—and possibly the dirtiest—to Parliament.

The poll dates were announced some six hours after Mr Gandhi's cabinet surprised everyone by deciding in favour of polls in November, a month ahead of schedule, and suggested three dates next month to the election commission.

The influential TIMES OF INDIA called the decision to go in for polls early a "deft move" by Mr Gandhi, who it claimed had "sought to seize the initiative which has rested with the opposition since the summer of 1987." The reference was apparently to a raging corruption scandal involving Sweden's Bofors firm which broke in April 1987 and has badly sullied the image of the 45-year-old prime minister.

The TIMES called the cabinet decision a "psychological coup" which would reduce the opposition's chances of coming to power "in the absence of a discernable trend against the ruling party".

The usually pro-government HINDUSTAN TIMES, the largest circulation newspaper here, added: "Early polls will deny the opposition adequate time to unite." It feared that the coming elections would be "perhaps the most keenly fought in the history of our democracy" since the first parliamentary polls in 1952.

Newspapers suggested that by calling for an early nationwide electoral battle, Mr Gandhi had put tremendous strain on the opposition, which is still beset with personality and ideological differences.

The HINDU, which has been in the forefront of exposures of the Bofors gun scandal, said the election might be the "dirtiest, fiercest, and bloodiest", echoing similar fears expressed by political leaders and analysts.

Newspapers across the country have been flooded with stories of alleged corruption scandals over the past six months involving prominent leaders of the ruling and opposition parties. The scandals are expected to be widely exploited by rival politicians in a campaign the HINDUSTAN TIMES said might be reduced to "gutter level". But newspapers said it would be early to predict how the estimated 500 million voters—who will decide who governs India for the next five years—will react.

Immediately after the cabinet decision, Mr Gandhi canceled a week-long trip to Kuala Lumpur to attend the Commonwealth summit. The opposition's shadow premier, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, similarly put off a visit to Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous and politically sensitive state. Mr Pratap Singh is president of the Janata Dal (People's Party), the main centrist grouping in the country and a member of the five-party national front.

The opposition, which rules seven of India's 25 states, said Tuesday it was prepared for the electoral challenge.

Newspapers indicated that the Congress (I) party, which opinion polls say faces a tough challenge in the elections, was expected to make two controversial bills which were both defeated in Parliament last week, its main election plank. The two bills sought to decentralise power to the country's rural and urban poor, who constitute the bulk of the voters, and political analysts said their defeat could have prompted the cabinet to call for early polling.

The move was compared to a similar situation in 1970 when the opposition defeated a bill in the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament, forcing the then premier, Indira Gandhi, to call for fresh elections. That bill sought to abolish privileges given to former rulers of India's princely states, and Mrs Gandhi, Mr Gandhi's mother and predecessor, made it a major campaign issue, accusing the opposition of being "reactionaries".

Mr Gandhi has reacted similarly to the defeat Friday of the two bills, which critics had said sought to clip the powers of state governments but which the premier said would economically benefit the urban and rural poor.

"The Congress (I) strategists hope to turn the fight (elections) this time into forces which are pro-people and anti-people [as received]," the Chandigarh-based TRIBUNE newspaper said.

Process of Withdrawal From Sri Lanka on Schedule

BK1610131389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The process of deinduction of the peacekeeping force [PKF] from Sri Lanka is continuing on schedule. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the alternative arrangements to take care of the security in the areas from where the PKF will be withdrawn are being worked out in consultation with the Sri Lankan authorities. He described as erroneous reports that appeared in a section of the press that there is some hitch in the deinduction of the PKF from Amparai areas.

Paper Welcomes Bhutto's Stance on Afghanistan

BK1510110389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Outlook on Afghanistan"]

[Text] Ms Benazir Bhutto's call to the Afghan mujahidin groups to negotiate with the Kabul government a political settlement does not come as a total surprise. Much of the basis for Pakistan's involvement in the "Jihad" [Holy War] against Kabul has been knocked out by the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the Afghan Government's grit has soured Pakistan's dream of installing a bigoted Islamic regime in Kabul. The mujahidin groups too have been jockeying for power while fighting the Najibullah government. The Pakistan Premier, under the circumstances, considers it expedient to effect some changes in her Afghanistan policy. She cannot abandon the rebels. That would cause a political upheaval and sour her relations with the US Government. Ms Bhutto has apparently also found it imperative to stay her ground in the face of strong resistance from the left-overs of Zia regime, the Army, and the Islamicist Opposition parties. Unlike the late Gen Zia, she has been quick to realise the corroding effects Pakistan's involvement in the mujahidin groups has wrought on Pakistan's economy and society. The free use of West-supplied weapons in frequent ethnic riots in Karachi and elsewhere is one. The staggering growth in illicit drug trade from Pakistan soil as well as its consumption in Pakistan is another. The simmering discontent among the locals about the preferential treatment the Afghan rebels have enjoyed in Pakistan in the years of military rule is yet another. More importantly, the country has come to rely on free, unabated flow of external aid meant for the rebels, with which the unscrupulous have lined their

pockets. The Army, which has singularly benefited from the Afghan situation, resists any change. The opposition too has resisted a change seeing it as an emotive issue on which to force a show-down with the government. If Ms Bhutto succeeds in using the leverage Pakistan still enjoys with the rebels, Afghanistan should be able to move towards a semblance of peace.

Editorial on Bhutto's Visit to Bangladesh

BK1510083789 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 89 p 13

[Editorial: "Promoting SAARC Spirit"]

[Text] Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto's three-day visit to Bangladesh will make some contribution to the promotion of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] spirit whatever other benefits it might or might not yield for the bilateral Dhaka-Islamabad ties. Ms Bhutto's trip was undertaken in the capacity of SAARC chairperson, and her choice of Dhaka as the first South Asian capital from among the six she needs to visit is entirely proper. Bangladesh not only tops the list of SAARC members alphabetically, it was the originator of the concept which gave birth to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. However, it was inevitable that the visit would also acquire a strong bilateral content. The two countries were one less than two decades ago, and their Islamic bond, to which Ms Bhutto made a pointed reference, has grown stronger over the years. Pakistan's desire to build relations is fully reciprocated by Bangladesh although it routinely raises two issues whenever leaders of the two countries meet. The first is Bangladesh's claim on assets of the undivided Pakistan. The second relates to the non-Bengali Muslims whose wish to be repatriated to Pakistan remains unfulfilled. Ms Bhutto skirted both issues diplomatically, describing them as complex matters that were still being discussed by the two governments. Dhaka's claim to assets is barely tenable, and whatever chances there were of Pakistan accepting the "Bihari" Muslims seem to have disappeared with the domestic political complications that Muhajirs, Pathans, and Sindhis have created in Karachi and Hyderabad.

Ms Bhutto's trip to Dhaka will be better remembered for her statement that SAARC was not a political forum to resolve outstanding issues. It is easy to see that repeated attempts by Sri Lanka to cause a stalemate in SAARC because of its political problems with India have prompted her to offer a clarification on the SAARC perspective. Whatever the reason, she has committed herself to a position which is proper and should prevent Pakistan, no less than other South Asian countries, from raising political matters at the SAARC forum. With pending bilateral problems between a number of South Asian countries, SAARC deliberations are in constant danger of straying from course. The Pakistan Prime Minister has done well to remind a fellow SAARC nation of the organisation's basic objective, namely promotion of regional cooperation in non-political areas. If Sri Lanka is at fault today, there could be some other member who in future might think of harming SAARC in order to spite one with whom it has a bilateral score to settle.

Commentary on Visit by PRC's Wu Xueqian

BK1710112089 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Commentary on "Chinese vice premier's visit to India" by T.V. Venkatachalam of the NATIONAL HERALD]

[Text] The recent visit to India of the Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, was important in the context of the normalization process in their relations with this country. The statements made by Mr Wu in India showed that the tone and temper of Sino-Indian relations have maintained an even level since the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, visited Beijing in December last year. The prime minister then had taken a major initiative marking the infusion of a certain amount of warmth in the relations which had been adversely affected by the boundary dispute. Mr Gandhi's trip to Beijing was the first one by an Indian prime minister to China after the visit of Mr Jawaharlal Nehru to China in 1954. Similarly, Mr Wu's visit to India was the first by a top-ranking Chinese dignitary to this country in nearly 4 decades.

The Chinese vice premier had talks with Mr Gandhi and the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman. The discussions which also took place at the delegation level covered not only bilateral matters but also current regional and global developments.

Mr Narasimha Rao touched on the boundary issue not in the speech at a banquet hosted by him, but in the discussions with Mr Wu. He hoped India and China would be able to initiate concrete and substantive discussions on the issue next year. The external affairs minister's reference was to the proposed second meeting of the joint working group on the boundary problem scheduled to be held in 1990. The group, which was the outcome of the discussions held in Beijing during Mr Gandhi's visit, held its first meeting in the Chinese capital for 5 days from 30 June.

Interestingly, China's annoyance over the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Dalai Lama did not come in the way of Mr Wu expressing appreciation of India's stand on Tibet. Mr Narasimha Rao pointed out that India had always respected the Dalai Lama as a spiritual and religious leader. The external affairs minister told Mr Wu that the bilateral relations had entered a new phase, offering fresh opportunities to work together in various fields.

It was noted that after Mr Gandhi's visit there have been a number of exchanges of high-level delegations between India and China—India's steel minister, Mr M.L. Fotedar, and the AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee]

general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, besides the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, heading the Indian side of the joint working group that visited Beijing. The Chinese ministers of trade and agriculture had also visited India.

Mr Wu said that there was a good deal of uncharted territory waiting to be exploited as far as the economic relations were concerned.

The discussions which the Chinese leader had in New Delhi also covered areas of cooperation in the technological, environmental, and economic fields. In the discussions with Mr Wu, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said India and China should see their relations from a special point of view. Both were big countries with large population and had to meet the challenge posed by their size and developmental needs. There was great scope for technological cooperation in each other's fields of specialization, Mr Gandhi noted.

The global and regional issues which figured in the course of Mr Wu's discussions with Indian leaders included Cambodia in which China has a special interest. Mr Gandhi drew his attention to the fact that the world is witnessing resurfacing of new economic groupings and a new exclusivism to replace the political and military blocs of the post-war period. There was a mutual desire expressed in the talks that the present momentum of consolidating the gains of recent initiatives should be maintained. With China having its own problems of economic reforms and political adjustment and India being primarily concerned with technological and economic breakthrough, the scope for cooperation in various fields is indeed bright. They can work together to bring about a new egalitarian world economic order.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech on Prophet's Birthday

LD1810135189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i to clergymen and military and state officials, marking the prophet's birthday on 18 October, place not given—recording]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate you on the occasion of this blessed anniversary day which belongs both to the holy prophet of Islam, the holy Muhammad Ibn-'Abd Allah—may God's peace and benedictions be upon him—and to the Imam Sadeq—may God's peace be upon him. I congratulate all of you, gentlemen and all the people of Iran, on this occasion.

What is important is that—as those who continue the path of the great and who, at least, claim to do so and the world's peoples recognize us as doing just this—we should endeavor to integrate and revive the various dimensions of those great and divine personalities, in our own persons—even if we do this in a weaker manner. It is not enough that the mujahids in the path of God and the struggles in the path of the supremacy of Islam should be thinking about building the Islamic society and system. Though this is a lofty duty and responsibility and is perhaps among the most fundamental obligations of the faithful and their civilization. But, alongside the struggle aimed at that, there is need for another struggle—perhaps a more difficult one—so that we may bring about a development and a revolution within ourselves, within our own nature. For, if we were to compare the personalities of the saints of the religion—be it the blessed prophet or the immaculate imams or the holy Fatimeh or Zainab—may God's peace and benedictions be upon them—if we were to talk about their personalities, it is the second characteristic that is most prominent in their personalities.

Truly today, the Islamic Republic needs first—in the first instance—that we officials, and next, that the mass of the people in a precise, orderly and careful manner, endeavor and move toward the moral and ethical objectives of Islam. Of course it is right that if there had been no development and changes in the hearts and minds, the revolution would not have come about either. The pulse of the revolution's victory—its reason and meaning—is that, as a whole, a transformation and change did occur in the hearts of people. Without this it would not have been possible for the revolution to succeed, but, for the continuation of the revolution and continuation of the victories and for continuous steadfastness, which is more important than all, all of us need to transform our inner selves, our behavior, our morals.

I remember in the course of these past 5 years, I thought, I realized that an important part of our victories emanate from the lofty spirit of the imam. That is, that great figure really, in addition to the fact that he himself has a superior personality. All those who knew him for a long time would also agree that he had a superior spirit. He was distinguished, trained and disciplined—self-disciplined. He was always like this, his eminence. But we felt that in this very period of the revolution too, he was not inwardly stagnant. He was always moving and progressing; he was always in a state of transformation just like God's saints—just like the holy presence of the holy Muhammad, and these latter, were in a state of constant development and transformation up to the moment of their deaths. [passage omitted]

Yes, the imam was similar. He would participate, especially in particular situations—for instance in the month of Ramadan—he would usually not have any meetings during the month of Ramadan and would therefore turn inward toward himself. After Ramadan was over and one would see his grace, meet him again, it was clear that he had become more holy, more spiritual. It is certain that many of the successes of this revolution and this nation had their source in that same constantly burning office. Of course, another great part of this is related to these self-sacrifices, these sincerities, these kindnesses and spirituality that exist among the mass of our people,

especially with the young—those who take pleasure in serving God in the time of their youth. They are still doing the same thing in different arenas, the most important of which was the war, but of course this was not the only arena.

We need this; this is what I want to say. Every one of us should try to go through a spiritual transformation and this is today's lesson. It is the lesson of the birth of the prophet.

The heavy load of Islamic revolution cannot be compared with any other load. Indeed, keeping the revolution healthy and making sure that it is progressing in a healthy path is a heavy responsibility. This nation, praise be to God, throughout these difficult years and throughout various tests, has borne this responsibility very well. This is nothing like other revolutions or other states. [passage omitted]

Global powers and politics made a mistake by thinking that the Islamic Republic—like other states and nations in this area who have material power but are ignorant—can be confronted, and swept away from the arena by threats and pressures. No! This was indeed their great mistake; that our enemies did not understand our spirit of attention to God and to meaning, which was prevalent among our nation and in our revolution. If this spirit of piety and attention to God prevails then there would be no quarrels, such as these small and shallow differences, which are insignificant. In my opinion they are not, however, that insignificant to be ignored completely [words indistinct].

On this blessed occasion I hope that the Almighty grants our nation, each member of our sacrificing nation, success and his special blessing. I also beseech him to grant mental ability, will, and resolve to our officials—as well as ability in practice—so that they can make endeavors for the sake of this nation as it is befitting. We praise God that today, the organs which are responsible to people and God, and the country's management circles, are busy with their efforts with sincerity and honesty. It has of course always been like this.

The Islamic Republic has been like this in the past too, where everyone worked sincerely. Praise be to God, we have good conditions; the nation is ready on the scene. We must also ask God for strength and power to lift heavy burdens and resolve the issues and problems, so as to take the revolution forward as before, on its stormy but resolute course.

Peace and benedictions upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Tabriz 18 Oct

LD1810151789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpt] In his first trip after his election to our country's presidency, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Tabriz this morning and received warm welcome at the city airport from Ayatollah Malakuti—the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in that province—the Friday prayer leaders from that province, the governor-general, members of the clergy, and Majlis deputies from that province, civil and military officials, and families of martyrs and the selfless devotees of the Islamic revolution.

Upon his arrival in Tabriz, our country's president gave an interview in which he voiced his congratulations for the blessed birthday of the esteemed prophet—may peace be on him and his scion—and Imam Ja'far Sadiq—peace on him—described the reason for his trip as meeting with the revolutionary and ever-present people of Azarbayjan, and reviewed their needs and abilities. Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani left the airport for the venue of the early-day ceremonies for the armed forces. He received a warm reception from the people of Tabriz who had gathered on the route.

At the early-day ceremonies, which were also attended by the joint chief of staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] Armed Forces and the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the president delivered a speech in which he pointed to the distinguished position of the IRI's armed forces on the world stage. He said to them: You enjoy a distinguished position among all the armies of the world. There are no other forces like you who are carrying the flag of defense of the Koran, Islam, and divine objectives. You have a special standing in the world, such that today the world confesses to the fact that the Islamic divine fortress is the most resistant and invincible in the world. He further pointed to the epics created by the armed forces during 8 years of sacred defense. He added: in an uneven battle, and during the course of the sacred defense—in which all the world's satanic powers had gathered on one side against the brave defenders of Islam on the other side—our Armed Forces were able to attain victory and honor in one of the world's most uneven battles.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that vigilance and alertness are important principles for the Armed Forces. He asked them to maintain their vigilance as the guardians of Islam, while striving to give hope to the Islamic combatant forces the world over. The president Hashemi-Rafsanjani also met with Friday prayer leaders and the clergy gentlemen of Azarbayjan in the Jame' Mosque of Tabriz this morning. [passage omitted]

Addresses Tabriz Gathering

LD1810230789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is visiting Tabriz, took part in the gathering of the people of that town at the Imam Khomeyni's prayer place on Wednesday evening and made a speech on Azarbayjan's struggles and role in the Islamic revolution and the imposed war.

Our colleague reports on this from the Tabriz center:

[Unidentified correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who traveled to Tabriz to visit the people of Azarbayjan, took part in the gathering of Tabriz people in that town's Imam Khomeyni prayer place this evening.

In these ceremonies first Ayatollah Malakuti, the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult in Azarbayjan, explained the situation in Azarbayjan and mentioned the needs of that region for the development of medical, hygiene, cultural and scientific centers, as well as the development of Azarbayjan's gas pipeline and railways. [passage omitted]

The president then referred to the events in Azarbayjan and the successful role of that region in the reconstruction of the country as well as the government's special interest in the region and invited the people to participate in the reconstruction of the war damaged areas and said: Rich natural resources, as well as the resources of the region of heavy industries and the budget arrangements of that province, together with the lively efforts of the people will have a significant role in the country's economic and social program. [passage omitted]

KEYHAN HAVAI Comments on Justice Chief

PM1810140089 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 11 Oct 89 pp 32, 24

[Editorial: "A Post Mortem on a Meeting"]

[Text] Last week's meeting between the head of the judiciary and a relative of the spy Cooper has caused various reactions in the country's mass media. One group has taken this action to be part of a circle of events aimed at expanding relations between Iran and the West, including Britain. Another group, without accepting this first analysis, has condemned the meeting as an act which was not thought-out before hand. They believe there is evident the hand of some people, who by giving wrong information to the country's officials, are trying to damage their reputation, pushing them into actions which are naive. There is yet another group which thinks this was a wise decision, praising and thanking the judicial chief, saying the action proved the independence of the justice network and the compassion of the judicial authorities. Keeping this in mind, it will not be out of place to mention a few points to clarify the issue:

1. Cooper's crime, to which he has admitted, is spying so it cannot be regarded as simply a judicial matter. It has very strong political implications. There is no doubt that the relations between Iran and Britain will be affected by the length of sentence he receives and the timing of his release. Of course there are other things that affect the degree of a condemned man's sentence or his release including matters such as confession, cooperation with the country's political and judicial authorities, the seriousness of the crime and the negative results of the crime. But with regard to a crime such as espionage, which is conspiracy against a nation, one cannot disregard political aspects, and see the issue as something purely judicial. This is the case with Cooper. On the one hand, in accordance with the rules of Islam and keeping in mind Britain's continued hostility against Iran's revolution, since the crimes are very serious in nature, one could execute him. On the other hand because of the adverse affects that his execution would bring about, the fact that the revolution will not be damaged by freeing a spy and keeping in mind his confession and his cooperation one could sentence him to a prison term. One could even pardon him, emphasizing Islam's compassion, for propaganda purposes. All the scenarios mentioned above are well within both judicial and Islamic principles. But they are all affected by the political climate in the country so one cannot regard Cooper's case as purely judicial. Is not the fact that his sentence has so far not been announced enough to prove this?

2. In recent months the Western mass media have taken up a clever and wicked propaganda policy by trying to use every incident to cause dissent among the forces of the revolution. They have undertaken a huge lie saying that there are some high-ranking officials in this country who are trying to remove the obstacles to the establishment of ties with the West, thereby trying to make the officials suspicious of one another. It is within the framework of this lie that each event is analyzed in a false way, toward the direction that they want. The Cooper case is an example of this.

From the time of Kurosh Fuladi's release, the Western mass media have claimed that in exchange for Fuladi's freedom, Cooper will be released. Unfortunately, the head of the judicial system did not consider the consequences of his meeting with a member of Cooper's family—which could be considered as proof of what the Westerners are trying to put across. Despite the fact that he denied any connection between Fuladi's case and that of Cooper, he undertook the improper meeting. Even worse than this, the question of the spy's pardon was brought up for the first time during the meeting and it was put across in such a way that the if issue of Cooper is solved this obstacle in the path of improved relations between Iran and Britain will be removed.

In order to avoid such speculations within the country, the head of the judicial system should never have agreed to a meeting with a member of Cooper's family under the present circumstances. It should not have been forgotten that he is a spy, that there are the two governments of Britain and Iran involved and that Cooper should not be treated as a normal criminal, with meetings held with his family, as one might with family members of ordinary criminals.

Is it normal in other countries for members of spies' families to get involved and try for their release? If that were the case, would they be able to meet anyone other than the spy himself—for humanitarian reasons—including the highest judicial officials of those countries? In the meeting between Ayatollah Yazdi and a member of Cooper's family, not only the special political circumstances of the country were not taken into account, there

was also no attention paid to the crimes of this experienced spy and he was treated as a man with an ordinary criminal background.

3. Of course there are those who would like to see expanded relations with the West. They are trying to invite officials to reconsider their position in their foreign policy, to normalize the relations between Iran and countries such as the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Britain. But of course these persons are not in a decision-making capacity. General foreign policy is decided by the leader and it cannot be anything other than what was put down by the imam and the ideals of the revolution. This is why establishing ties with these nations, as long as there is hostility by them toward the revolution, is not possible as far as Iran is concerned. Those people who are moving in that direction will not achieve their goal.

There is however, something worth noting. Once in a while, some of the newspapers print articles putting across the idea that during the past few years, Iran has made mistakes, especially in the areas of foreign policy. There are several examples of this in ETTELA'AT, in articles written by Marvi, Sa'idi Sirjani, Hojjati Kermani, and so forth. Those who hold this belief exist in society. They have spent all their effort exaggerating economic problems, encouraging the pursuit of creature comforts and personal security to force the top officials of the country to reconsider their foreign policy and expand relations with the West.

We do not think it unlikely that some of these people may have been somehow involved in recent events including the meeting between Yazdi and Lili Cooper. By putting forth the positive aspects of such a meeting they wanted to manipulate it toward attaining their goals. If that is the case, the first people that will lose their popularity among the masses, will be these same officials. It is up to the top-level officials to consider the results of their actions and to prevent the pro-Western trend from taking advantage.

4. It is natural that the chief of the judiciary agreed to the meeting, thinking only of its positive aspects, and if he had thought of the adverse affects, he would not have agreed to it. The truth is that the Western media have mentioned nothing with regard to the meeting that indicates Islamic justice, the judicial power's independence, the compassion of judicial authorities or a comparison of Cooper's situation versus that of Fuladi. It would also be naive to think that this action would increase the Islamic Republic's credibility in the eyes of the world, or show the real face of Islam. Quite the opposite, the Western media are putting across the idea that this meeting was held from a position of weakness, that it was done to pave the way for improved relations with the West, which they believe, along with some people within the country, to be necessary for reconstruction projects.

These kinds of actions not only do not produce the kinds of results we want outside the country, but they also cause problems internally. It would be better to start from within if we want to show that the "voice of very criminal's family reaches the officials of the Islamic regime," which is what RESALAT wrote on 2 October. We must be sure that holding a meeting with a family member of a spy, which has political implications, is not necessarily enough to prove this.

5. We saw in the news that Ayatollah Yazdi met with Kurosh Fuladi. Fuladi spent 10 years in various British jails and underwent continued torture. He is now living in Iran, living proof of Western human rights. We regard this meeting as a proper step and furthermore we consider it to be adequate compensation for the earlier meeting which should never have taken place.

3d Congress on Imam Reza Opens 18 Oct

LD1810154489 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Oct. 18, IRNA—The 3rd international congress of Imam Reza (peace be upon him [pbuh]) opened in this holy city Wednesday with a message from the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Muslim scholars and personalities from 14 countries and several religious and political officials, among them head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi together with a number of cabinet ministers and Majlis deputies were present in the inauguration ceremony.

The third congress is devoted to reviewing the personality and life of Imam Musa Kazem (pbuh), the 7th Imam of the Prophet Mohammad's (pbuh) household.

Ayatollah Khamene'i's message was read by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rasuli Mahalati, a member of bureau.

The opening session coincided with the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) and Imam Jaafar Sadeq, the 6th Shiite imam.

Several figures including Hojatoleslam Vaez-Tabasi, superintendent of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (pbuh), Hojjat ol-Eslam Ferdousipour, secretary of the congress and Professor Jaafar Sobhani, a member of teachers' association at Qom thelogical school made speeches to the gathering. [all names as received]

The three day international congress is being held at a hall at Razawi College of Islamic science [word indistinct].

Kharrazi Writes Perez de Cuellar on POW's

LD1510085889 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 15, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrrazi in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that prisoners of war will be exchanged within 90 days after Iraq accepts the four-point plan of the secretary general.

Kharrazi replying to October 5th letter of Iraqi deputy prime minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Tariq 'Aziz, said, "had Iraq accepted the proposals of secretary general, all POWs would have returned to their families by the end of 1988."

Further in the letter released here Saturday [14 October], he stressed that the only way to end sufferings of the POWs was Iraqi officials acceptance of Perez de Cuellar's plans.

Tariq 'Aziz in his letter to Perez de Cuellar, distributed among the Security Council members, claimed that Iraq was ready to exchange POWs.

"The truth is clear," said Kharrazi adding, "Iraq has refrained from implementing the Resolution 598 since August 1988 (when ceasefire went into effect) and has not acepted any of the secretary general's proposals. However, despite all these hampering moves, the Iraqi foreign minister has dared to misuse the Security Council in a bid to divert the world public opinion." He stressed that the Security Council should not allow such a misuse adding that the propaganda aimed at covering up Iraq's role in stalemate in the talks.

He said that it was time that Iraq decided on taking serious measures after more than a year since the enforcement of the ceasefire.

Kharrazi stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had proved its commitment to full implementation of the resolution and attached great importance to immediate exchange of all POWs.

Like the secretary general, Iran is of the opinion that the Resolution 598 calls for immediate withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders and immediate exchange of all POWs.

In addition to being distributed among the Security Council members Kharrazi's letter will be published by the council.

Iraq's 'Unprincipled Decisions' on POW's Viewed

LD1610084589 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—A Persian daily said Monday that Iraq's unprincipled decisions were the major obstacle in release of prisoners of war.

In an inside page commentary, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI urged supporters of the U.N. Resolution 598 to press Iraq to stop making excuses and pave the way for the release of POW's.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar released Saturday, Iran's Permanent Representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi reiterated that all Iran-Iraq POW's would be released within 90 days whenever Iraq accepted Perez de Cuellar's four-point plan.

The Iraqi regime should know that the lapse of time would not be in its interest, the daily stressed.

The paper described as baseless Iraq's claims that it is ready to exchange POW's outside the framework of the resolution adding that it has so far even refrained from releasing the complete list of all Iranian POW's in Iraq. It also lashed out at Iraq for its statement that it is ready to exchange only the listed Iranian POW's with all of its POW's in Iran, making no mention of those who have not been listed.

It said that Iran's proper treatment of Iraqi POW's proved the baselessness of many Iraqi claims adding, "Iraq is the one which is worried about the return of POW's."

The daily warned the Iraqi regime about consequences of refusal to release POW's adding that there was a limit to one's patience.

Pakistani Air Force Chief Arrives in Tehran

LD1810182289 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—Pakistan's Air Force commander General [as received] Hakimullah arrived here today for a one-week official visit and was greeted by his Iranian counterpart Brigadier-General Mansur Sattari and Pakistani Ambassador to Tehran Tanvir Ahmad Khan.

The Pakistani military official was invited to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran by Sattari during his visit to Pakistan.

General Hakimullah and his entourage are to confer with Iranian officials during their visit.

Daily Calls for Majority Rule in Lebanon

LD0810104289 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—To restore normal life in Lebanon, the al-Ta'if gathering will have to propose acceptable solutions to the Christian-Muslim fighting, cut off Iraq's arms supply to Christians and define Syria's future relations with the Muslim country, said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Sunday.

The English morning daily's editorial believed, "the al-Ta'if debate on Lebanon could be termed timely because it has come at a time of relative calm in the capital."

33 Muslim and 40 Christian members of the Lebanese Parliament now meeting in Saudi Arabia are going through heaps of controversial issues that have rendered the Arab country ungovernable for the past 15 years.

"Any degree of success in writing a new national power-sharing charter is linked to one reality of strategic importance: Now Muslims are a majority in Lebanon," said the daily.

"On the basis of democratic principles, henceforth there is no room for the Christian minority to maintain its unjustified privileges," it stressed.

On Christian General Michel 'Awn's "war of liberation" against the Syrians, the editorial said he "made a doomed effort to force the Syrians out of Lebanon because the progressive resistance forces confronting the U.S.-Israeli-Phalangist-Iraqi faction are aligned with Damascus."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL noted that a fragile ceasefire in holding [as received], people in and around Beirut are returning to their homes.

"It will be a real pity," concluded the editorial, "if the Muslim and Christian parliamentarians failed to establish the primary stages of a change in which the majority will rule and the minority's rights will be protected."

Netherlands Charge Summoned Over Embassy Attack

LD1810153889 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 18, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry on Wednesday summoned the Dutch Charge d'Affaires to Tehran Vander Goes in protest against an attack by unidentified men on the Iranian Embassy in The Hague Monday [16 October].

Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki while complaining over the lack of security around Iran's Embassy in The Hague told Goes that the Islamic Republic held the Dutch Government responsible for the safety of its diplomatic mission.

Mottaki also called on the Dutch Government to give an explanation on the attack, compensate the damages inflicted on the embassy building, and arrest and severely punish those responsible for the raid.

Soviet Delegation Arrives for Gas Talks

LD1910150689 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Mordenov arrived here Thursday at the head of a top level economic delegation.

The delegation is here to finalize talks on the export of Iranian natural gas to the Soviet Union and to arrange a forthcoming visit to Tehran of Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin F. Katushev.

The Soviet foreign economic minister and Iran's Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nourbakhsh are to ink documents relevant to the gas agreement.

In an interview with reporters, Mordvenov said that his talks here would include joint cooperation in a series of industrial projects concerning gas, hydroelectric and steam power stations, steel mill, machine building, public transport and nuclear energy.

UAE Official on 'All-Out' Cooperation

LD1810170189 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) believes the Islamic Republic of Iran as a regional power plays a prominent part in establishment of stability and security of the region, said a UAE senior official.

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah made the remark Wednesday in a meeting with Iran's new ambassador to Abu Dhabi Muhammad 'Ali Hadi Najafabadi. The Iranian envoy presented a copy of his credentials to 'Abdallah.

'Abdallah adverting to historical and long-standing relations between the two countries said Tehran-Abu Dhabi ties have been promoting over the past years. He termed the mutual ties as unique in the region.

The UAE minister also announced his country's readiness for all-out cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Joint Commission With India Session Postponed

LD1810150489 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 18, IRNA—The fifth session of the joint Iran-India Commission has again been postponed.

Iran's ambassador here Ebrahim Rahimpur was invited to Indian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday [17 October] and was told that the fifth session of the commission should be postponed due to India's general election which is to be held November 22-24, ahead of the scheduled time.

Iranian and Indian delegations were to start their preliminary meetings in Tehran as of next week and the two countries' foreign ministers were scheduled to ink documents concerning the achieved agreements on Oct. 26 and 27.

The Indian cabinet decided Monday morning to hold the elections a month earlier and as a result Rajiv Gandhi called off his six-day visit to Malaysia. Gandhi was to take part in the 27th summit meet of the Commonwealth member states.

The fifth session of joint Tehran-New Delhi Commission was to be held in January 1988, but it was cancelled due to various reasons including Iraqi missile attacks on the Iranian capital.

The 11th session of Baghdad-New Delhi commission was held on Sept. 8, 1988 in which the Indian Government announced readiness to grant a 28-million-dollar loan to Iraq.

Hasan Habibi Receives Japanese Envoy 17 Oct

LD1710150589 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Japanese Ambassador Kunihiko Saito conferred with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Tuesday.

At the meeting, the two reviewed progress of Tehran-Tokyo ties and laid emphasis on expansion of mutual cooperation.

Dailies Assess Government's Role in Economy

LD1510114389 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—A Persian daily Sunday called on the government to halt excessive red tape procedure in the country in order to guarantee economic growth, import-export activities and solve financial and industrial problems.

ABRAR in its editorial criticzed the existing bureaucratic system in the country adding that the government and people were feeling the need for a change.

The Persian daily said that to this end programs must be carried out in political, economic and social fields.

The Government should utilize the public support at present time in moving the country towards development, it concluded.

Meanwhile, the English daily TEHRAN TIMES called on the government to utilize the "expertise and advice of sound economic theoreticians" to direct flow of available capital in the country towards productive enterprises.

In its editorial, the daily comments on the government's five-year development plan saying that the anti-inflation moves of the government were "a good augury".

The English daily said that "the right mixture of government and private sector participation will be the best thing that can be hoped for.

It added that expansion of domestic industry to the maximum extent would "in the end lead to self-sufficiency in what can very well satisfy domestic needs."

"It is only by increasing employment and concurrently through increased production that the benefits of greater wealth can flow down to the vast majority of the less affluent in the country," suggested the daily.

It stressed "bureaucratic imbecility should under no circumstances be allowed to foul the entire work up."

It added that the government could take in its hand the taxation on business and industries when the economic wheels of the country move faster.

This would ensure "any wealth in excess is siphoned off to the government coffers and used in the most benefitial of ways in the interests of the people as a whole," concluded the editorial.

* Khalkhali, Others Discuss Yazdi, Cooper, U.S.

90OI0008a Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Sep 89 pp 3, 4, 7

[Report of the Open Session of the Majlis]

[Text]

The Legal and Majlis Bureau:

The Islamic Consultative Majlis held its session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and later by Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat. In this session, after the recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, Messrs. Belukian, representative of Kashmar; Fadayi, representative of Arak; Khalkhali, representative of Qom; Asgharzadeh, representative of Tehran; and Zovalqadr, representative of Minab, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, after the recitation of comments of the representatives to the executive officials of the country, Majlis entered into order.

According to the reports from RESALAT's parliamentary reporter, the first order of Majlis was to continue the review of the bill for the transformation of the National Topographic Organization which was not approved and, thus, was rejected.

The second order was the priority one plan for the method of medical examination of national draft service conscripts. This plan was approved by the deputies.

The next order was the Teachers, Doctors, and [Paramedics] bill which was passed.

The fifth order was the legal plan for the correction of the sub-article of Article 29 of the 1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90] national budget, which was not passed and, therefore, was rejected.

The last order was the legal plan for the method of investigating judicial matters related to Majlis deputies. This plan was ratified by the deputies.

The following is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and details of the discussions:

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Ahmad Belukian, the representative of the people of Kashmar. At the beginning of his speech, after hailing Imam Khomeyni, he said:

God! You know that we have lost a great blessing who was the founder of a regime that is managed on the basis of velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult]. In this path,

he said all that could be said to enlighten the minds. Indeed, the people, by their endorsement and unflagging support, during his lifetime and after his death, demonstrated their understanding and intellect. Today, the Islamic Republic's regime is the sacred shrine of velayat-e faqih, and these two are inseparable because strengthening of this regime can be achieved only by focusing on velayat-e faqih. And, focusing on velayat-e faqih will strengthen the Islamic regime. Indeed, this is the line of the imam and today, the covenant with the imam is none other than a pact with the [present] leader of the Islamic revolution and the present master of the faithful. What differs from this is not in line with the aspirations and the line of the imam. It will be against the line of the imam.

He added: All those who seek to continue in the line of the imam and aspire to the high goals of the imam must know that this is the way, and the covenant of the people with the leader of the Islamic revolution His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i is also in this path.

The covenant between the people and their great leader at the outset of the revolution demonstrates that they will always be supporters of velayat-e faqih. In reference to the anniversary of the imposed war, saluting the brave men of mobilization, and hailing the [religiously] faithful members of the armed forces, he said:

God! You witnessed that world arrogance tasked Saddam to attack our Islamic homeland at a time when only 2 years had passed from the Islamic revolution of our people. God! You witness that, in this war, we defended heartily because the world of blaspheme was at war with us. The enemies of Islam utilized all their capabilities and destructive weapons, and it was the love-filled chests of the sons of Islam and their sacrifices that repelled the aggression. God's praise and peace be upon all the martyrs and those who conducted the manly defense.

In another part of his speech, he said: May the new school year be a happy one for all of the dear educators and students. I ask the Almighty to grant them success. What should be the focus of serious attention today is the help of all the people to build an educational atmosphere. This requires a mass mobilization to be ordered by the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution. The Ministry of Education and Training should plan, in such a way, to ensure that the schedules of elementary schools and high schools are combined with work and practical training.

After congratulating the heads of the three branches—Hojjat ol-Eslams Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr Karrubi, the respected speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majlis; and His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi, the chief of the judicial branch—for their elections to new responsibilities, he emphasized:

Laws must be enacted in a way to remedy the immediate needs of the people. And, their implementation must be such that it conforms with their enactment. Violators must be punished. The people's comfort and well-being will result from the correct implementation of the law.

In reference to the slave-servants of America and the rulers of Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], he pointed out: You slave-servants of the warmonger America! You blasphemers of Hejaz! The shouts of "God is great" by the defenseless pilgrims to the House of God—who were seeking mercy from the idol worshipers while being massacred—still ring in the ears of the free and God-seeking believers. And yet, another news of the martyrdom of sixteen men of God from Kuwait has broken the hearts of the free and the Moslems of the world. Be it until we and the Moslems of the world clear the holy shrines, with our faith, from the dirty existence of their filth.

The representative of the people of Kashmar also gave some advice to the executive officials of of the country, and pleaded with the brave and fighting people of Iran to assist them.

In conclusion, he added: What must be considered by the officials of the country are:

- Special attention to the defense capability of the country.
- Practical transformation of the bureaucratic machinery.
- Ironing out the bureaucratic pitfalls.
- Taking care of the people's economic situation.
- Paying attention to the system of payment to wage earners.

Gholamreza Fadayi, The Representative Of The People Of Arak

Mr Gholamreza Fadayi, the representative of the people of Arak, was the second pre-agenda speaker. While thanking the respected Majlis speaker for coming to Arak, he noted: It had been a long time since it had been planned that he [the speaker] would come [to Arak] but it was not our fortune. However, fortunately, he came to Arak during Holy Defense Week to commemorate the fighters and the sacrificers in the fronts. His visit was most welcome.

During his stay, although it was very short, he listened and noted the problems of the city and the region. He was present and noticed that the city of Arak has many problems.

He added: For his information and all those present, I say: Mr Karrubi, the city of Arak is the capital of the Central Province but lacks many facilities that other provincial capitals have.

I shall not mention, at this time, some of the executive shortcomings that were obvious even in this visit, but what about the other shortcomings that you witnessed in the city? It is truly noticeable that the city of Arak which

is the capital of the Central Province has only a 1-kw radio that is not even capable of servicing the other side of the city.

The city of Arak, which is an industrial center and pole, does not have an airport. The li[illegible] of many professionals have been lost on the winding ro[illegible]s.

Considering that the city of Arak has two representatives in Majlis, it is composed of a city of 300,000 people and a huge district of 160,000 people. Regretfully, it has not been taken into consideration that it should have been composed of several districts.

He continued: During his stay, he visited the huge Pars wagon factory. Indeed I got the impression, and it was evident from the speeches, that the speaker was quite impressed. In all honesty, anyone who sees the plant will be impressed. They build beautiful wagons, especially the passenger kind. The chief executive officer of the company took us witness and said that some of the brothers who go to the expo in Tehran are asked if all wagons are built like the ones here. He asked us to notice that all of these wagons are built alike.

Mr Fadayi also said: I wish success for all of the workers, engineers, and technical experts, and I thank them all, especially since it is the last day of the expo and many of them are present right now. I hope that, God willing, with their efforts they can solve our industrial difficulties in an amicable way.

In another part of his speech to the deputies, he said: According to the imam, Majlis is above all affairs. The Majlis is the reflection of the people's will. It means that if those from the Majlis are united then the people are also united. If there is infighting in the Majlis, the people will be doing the same.

If the Majlis, God forbid, is into political games then the people will be the same. If those from the Majlis adhere to planning, setting doctrines, following thrift, and the economy, then the people will do the same. And if the Majlis and the regime set obedience to the leadership on the top of their agenda then the people will do likewise.

In conclusion, the deputy from Arak emphasized: Therefore, if one really makes a mistake, we should try not to crushingly destroy him. Therefore, let us try to teach people lessons of unity, sacrifice, planning, piety of the mind as well as action from this free podium. Let us not forget unity in the sense that [Koranic verse] We shall all attach ourselves to the rope of God and not be divided.

Mohammad Sadeq Khalkhali, The Representative Of The People Of Qom

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr Khalkhali, the representative of the people of Qom who, in the beginning of his speech, referring to the crime of the Saudi clan [Saudi royal family], said:

The crime of the Saudi clan in Holy Mecca has bloodied the revolting face of this family. It was not the first, and will not be the last. Initiating moves to recognize the Saudis means smearing the blood of the martyrs and disregarding the will and orders of the imam. In connection with Mecca, even if we do not go there for another 50 years, we shall not initiate the move to recognize the Saudi clan.

In connection with Roger Cooper and also the meeting between his wife and the chief of the judicial branch, he said: Roger Cooper is a known spy in the eyes of our Islamic revolution courts, and is presently serving time. They want to compare this with Kurosh Fuladi.

Kurosh Fuladi was 16 years old when he was subjected to torture in British jails. He lost his hand, has problems with his back, and has lost his eyesight. He entered the airport handicapped and he looked like an old man. In England, his mother and brother were prevented from visiting him. It is neither suitable nor proper for us to allow the meeting of the wife of a known spy with a high judicial authority. I would like to point out that we have a covenant with the leadership, have voted for him and approve of him in every way. I have not seen nor has there been any deputy who has intended to disobey the orders of the leadership. Implementation of the orders of the leadership is a duty for us. However, this does not mean that advice shall not be given.

He added: We beseech the leadership or the president to ensure that the people they would like to appoint have no problems. There should be no doubt about them. For example, one who was supporting Mr Shariatmadari yesterday should not be appointed to a post. We follow the leadership and will crush whoever wants to oppose it. However, this does not mean that some deputy, for whom it is a constitutional right, should be ostracized for a pre-agenda speech and be attacked to the point that he should be called Zionist. These [actions] are wrong. I listened to the speeches of Mr Ha'erizadeh and Mr Salehabadi in their entirety. I noticed that they were humble toward the leadership and said nothing about the leadership. Of course, they had objections. It was not necessary for the leadership to, for example, give his vote [of confidence] to individual ministers and the council of ministers or, to endorse, for example, the minister of foreign affairs. If there had been anything we would have complied with the wishes of the leadership.

The leadership had asserted that it is best that he [the minister of foreign affairs] remains, but some acted according to their own understanding. There was a time that the imam sent Mr Ahmad and others to the Majlis three times to get the vote of confidence for Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi. Some came here and said that this is in essence a guiding order. Still, 99 deputies were in opposition. If it were right to release Roger Cooper, his eminence the imam would have decided it. Although there was a lot of pressure then, we cannot release one who was not released by the imam. This person must remain in jail until the end of his sentence. Mr Salehabadi or Mr Ha'eri or you and I were not sent here by these people only on account of a petition.

When the heroic people of Birjand or the heroic people of Mashhad elected their deputies, were people sent here for consultation so that you could prepare a list and send it there? I believe that, in the future, such people should be allowed into the Majlis. The Majlis cannot be emptied of revolutionary people. We like and admire the revolutionary people. Mr Haj Ahmad Khomeyni warns that organs should not be emptied of revolutionary people. Praise unto you Ahmad for it is evident that this center and this volcano still has fire. I warn that the hand that is trying to eradicate the revolutionary people is the hand of America.

That hand must be cut by all means. Know that this hand is not the hand of the people, the hand of the officials, the hand of the followers and the line of the imam. Therefore, we must be very alert and conscious. We took our lives into our hands and fought against the arbitrary regime of the monarchy. We learned the way of struggle from our imam.

Mr Khalkhali continued: A gentleman in his pre-agenda speech said that such and such a person was in your band. Yes, he was in our band, but he was given what he deserved. What does it have to do with you? Is it right if we say Seyyed Khavari or Ahmad Kashani, the coup organizer, were in your band? He went to jail with the decree of the imam, and the imam ordered him to be released for the sake of Mr Kashani.

You rushed to visit him. Then, what more can you say? You answered the imam by responding that Khomeyni was sending 270 muzzles to Majlis. You dragged the situation to the point where the Combatant Clergy [Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez] were forced to oppose you and won the election and you were defeated. We do not want to say some of these things so the enemies may take advantage. Why do you keep saying that so and so has talked against the leadership? Avoid saying these things. The leadership is above such talks. We have here a covenant with the leadership. We will defend the leadership with our blood, our life, our prestige, and our honor. If one does not do so, we will not recognize him as a Moslem.

The representative of the people of Qom then attacked the Qods newspaper and said: A newspaper has recently started working in Khorasan province which is called "Qods". I beseech God that the path of this Qods does not end up in Tel Aviv. Why do you do this? Sir, using obscenities is not right. Have you learned from Rashidi-Motlaq and Sa'id Sirjani to accuse and keep calling people Zionists? Do you even understand what is the meaning of Zion and where it is used? How many times has Zion been used in the Torah? We respect all the deputies who have been to this Majlis. Now, if the future deputies who wish to come to the Majlis do not say that so and so failed, and that Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi was not given a post, I do not know why. This is shortsightedness. I think that the nation accepts Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Behzad Nabavi, Kho'iniha, Sarhadizadeh, and Mohtashami, and we will vote for them in the by-elections and will support them with all of our power.

We will not allow this Majlis to be dragged to decadence and some people be toyed with. The Majlis is above such talks.

In reference to his and the Iranian delegation's recent visit to Libya, he noted:

We stand beside the people of Libya, Syria, and beside the oppressed people of the world, in accordance with the Imam's will. We stand beside them in good times and bad times.

At the end of his speech, Mr Khalkhali said: Today's situation in Southern Lebanon and Palestine is a result of the treacherous acts of King Husayn, Fahd, Yasir 'Arafat, and King Husayn [as published] in order to drag this nation of Islam to carnage. However, the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the leadership of the president, and the Majlis speaker is behind the deprived people of Palestine and will not allow another Maronite or a second Israel to be formed in this region.

Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, The Representative Of The People Of Tehran

Mr Asgharzadeh, the representative of the people of Tehran, was the next pre-agenda speaker. Regarding the international relations of our country with other countries of the world, he said: The discussion that is propounded here, most of which I hear being repeated in interviews or speeches, and sometimes mentioned by some of our misguided friends speaking behind the Majlis podium or being written in newspapers, is a discussion about international relations and viewing international relations from the narrow perspective of diplomatic procedure. It means that if we are to be considered in the international arena, we must, for example, have relations with the West or with countries such as Saudi Arabia. Discussions about international relations on the world scene go above and beyond discussions about the technique and style of diplomacy. It is a discussion about the national interest of a country which is [ultimately] the security for the national might of a country. It is known to all that behind the diplomatic and international relations the main and hidden discussion is the essence of the power that a country has. In fact, it is the national power of a country that depicts its foreign relations. It is not correct that we consider foreign policy in the framework of some sort of discussions and meetings that we perceive to be solutions to problems and answers to questions of common interests. We must have common grounds with countries with whom we seek to have diplomatic relations. To reach these common grounds with the western world, we will have to deviate from our revolutionary positions. This is a principle that I will mention here once and for all and that is: Deviation from revolutionary positions is forsaking the national interest. Our national interest is best guarded by our defense of revolutionary posture. Our national interest will become like those of a country like

Saudi Arabia when its common and national interest are in line with ours. Saudi Arabia is known as a country that, from the outset of our revolution, has based all its planning and political doctrine on opposition to the Islamic revolution. Its cultural activities, political activities, and even in economic and oil policies, in military and intelligence conspiracies in the Persian Gulf region it has acted as the policeman of the region and has tried to fulfill its mission tasked by the American imperialism to oppose the Islamic revolution. How can we see our interests in line with those of Saudi Arabia to the point that we think now we can establish relations? Discussion about establishing relations and viewing our diplomacy and foreign policy from within the narrow framework of ambassadorial relations is an extremely shortsighted and unrealistic view. We will succeed in the international arena at a time when we use our foreign policy as a lever in the service of our national interests.

He added: The Islamic revolution is one of the components of our national interest. Another segment is the national issues and the public issues of our society. Other segments are public opinion and the character of our society, mines and resources, economic facilities, political capabilities, and the indirect influence we will have over the countries in the region or in the world arena. All these must be taken into consideration so that our foreign relations strategy can be determined. Regretfully, I see that nowadays some of the people who speak on behalf of the ministry of foreign affairs or are involved in foreign policy are those whose thoughts and ideas are the translation of foreign articles. These people utilize translated theories, and have no independence in the way of establishing their thoughts and theories on the basis of revolutionary values. What these people say is harmful to our national interest. I do not discount that what was done in Saudi Arabia, and 16 of the best sons of Islam have been martyred, is a result of a series of discussions that have taken place here [in the Majlis]. I do not think it is far-fetched that the situation in Lebanon and the treachery that is taking place and the attempts to drag the Lebanese problems inside Saudi Arabia in order to resolve them is, again, due to weaknesses that have been seen from our side. The issue of foreign policy is a very important issue to us. If someone here speaks against the minister of foreign affairs, he should not be branded as against the velayat-e faqih. We have a revolution and a government that are perceived as political doctrines. Therefore, it must be analyzed and discussed. Such discussions must not be interpreted as opposition to the regime. Those people who come here and talk about foreign policy may be more concerned than the ones who give those interviews and whose talk is more treacherous. But I see that no one tells them that there is anything wrong. No one tells them that what they are saying is an attempt to make a legitimate excuse to establish relations with America. Is this treachery towards the revolution and its values in the guise of talking about Saudi Arabia or other discussions?

Then, Mr Asgharzadeh criticized the meeting between the chief of the judicial branch with Cooper's wife and said: When the issue of the judicial branch comes up and its chief conducts that meeting, which has caused pain for everyone, there is no one to ask this man, well, why did you consent to having this meeting? I would accept if Mrs Roger Cooper meets with the foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic, but why should she meet with the chief of the judicial branch? Is this problem not so complicated for us and yet we deal with it so simply thinking that the British public opinion may be changed because of this? Do you think that in the eyes of Mrs Thacher and the British government setting up a meeting with Mrs Roger Cooper is the solution to the problems or do they evaluate something else? So far some things of this sort have happened and their perception has been that we were weak and our confrontation has been weak. We have always complained about the situation in the judicial branch [such as] the appointments, firings and selections that have caused disrespect. We have declared this and, presently, we have a grievance against Mr Yazdi.

The speaker then pointed out the clashes in the Majlis and said: What is being discussed in the Majlis nowadays is about the prestige of the Majlis as an institution that, according to the Imam, stands above all affairs. He always recommended that all problems should be resolved through the Majlis. It is not right to demean the Majlis to the point that a deputy cannot come here and talk and if he does, some accuse him of being anti-velayat-e faqih. Is velayat-e faqih so weak and shaky in our country now that one can criticize it. It shows that you do not know the society, and do not understand on what principles our country is based and how our people defend their revolution. Is it so simple that the people turn away from velayat-e faqih or the regime over a criticism? The discussion about the Majlis that has been turning up from the outset of the revolution, as far as I am concerned, is that a school of thought was born at the same time as the revolution which, since it does not believe the people, does not believe the representatives of the people. I call this thought the anti-Majlis thought and the anti-parliament thought. This is a calamity of the revolution, a pest of the society. It is among the same calamities that the Imam had mentioned such as backwardness, holy pretentions, and ...vulgarity, and one of them is being anti-Majlis. Meaning that Sir, you get out of the way and let the officials do their work. This is the same kind of thought that mislead our country for 100 or 200 years. A traditional Iranian way of thinking is will someone finally come tomorrow, and will he solve the problems of the people? Whenever it was decided to get the people involved through constitutionalism, through the Majlis, through parliamentary and public institutions, some would say do not get the people involved. Just allow one person to come and solve the problems. I see that the same way of thinking is again prevalent. Despite the emphasis of the exalted leader and the president which he stated in the Majlis, I see that on the fringes still some deputies, and also the Majlis as a

whole, are subjects of harassment. The root of this is in the anti-Majlis thinking, and it is a calamity for our society and revolution.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr Zovalqadr, the representative of the people of Minab, who, in his speech, objected to the speech of Mr 'Abbasi, the representative of the people of Bandar 'Abbas, during the Sunday session and answered its remarks.

In connection with the representative of the velayat-e faqih and the Friday prayer leader of Bandar 'Abbas, he said: Many times he attempted to leave the province, but the Imam prevented his doing so. Recently, in an audience—attended by our brother Mr Musavi-Tabrizi—with members of the Office of Propaganda, the leader of the revolution stated that Mr Ahmadi must remain in Bandar 'Abbas. When our leader gives such a directive, even if we have some problems with our Friday prayer leader, such problems should not be brought up in the Majlis. Ninety percent of these respected deputies have problems with their Friday prayer leaders, but such differences should not be dragged into the Majlis. These problems should be resolved by the leader through his secretariat.

In regard to Engineer Khorram, Governor of Hormozgan Province, he said: Our brother, Engineer Khorram, was a notable man before the revolution, and I did not know him. Those who knew him, such as Mr Raja'i-Khorasani, when I told them the problems of Hormozgan and what was being related to Mr Khorram—God as my witness—repeated three time, "Praise the Lord", "Praise the Lord", "Praise the Lord". Khorram was an interpreter of the Qoran in Tabriz. This is what Mr Raja'i-Khorasani said [in regard to him].

The second person was Mr Nateq-Nuri who is present here. He told me yesterday that "If I have secured the heaven for myself, it is as a result of appointing three brothers, Mr Al eshaq, Salimi and, the third, Khorram. The first two have been martyred but Mr Khorram who is a pious and gentle man is still active." Our brother Mr Nateq-Nuri who issued the decree of appointment for the stay of Mr Khorram in Bandar 'Abbas is now present here.

The third is our brother Mr Musavi-Tabrizi, who is present in this session. The first day that I had the honor of his acquaintance, he inquired about the issues that are being brought up in the province regarding Mr Khorram. He said that Khorram is pious, strong, and a very good person for the province and the issue that was raised by our brother, Mr 'Abbasi, was the issue of change in administration, which he, himself, talked about in length and Mr Nateq-Nuri also reiterated that "I, also, told Mr 'Abbasi that what was said was a mistake and should not have been brought up." He stated that the issue was change in the administration of the Tabriz [Revolution Guards] Corps Council. If this change in administration is to be regarded as a purge, then, how are thousands of administrative changes in Iran going to be perceived? Is it not true that Engineer Mr Torkan used to be the governor in Bandar 'Abbas and yet was taken off the post of governor of Hormozgan? But we saw that he came back and became a very strong [cabinet] minister and gained the approval of almost 250 deputies.

Dear brothers, citizens of Hormozgan! Know that Engineer Khorram is not an unknown person and most deputies wish to have him as the governor of their provinces, especially Mazandaran, Shiraz, Bushehr, Urumieh and....Then, if we continue such talks, the same plague will befall the province as when Tor?an left the province.

He pointed out: Brothers, just as you went to see Mr Rafsanjani and gave him advice, please let us do likewise ourselves. If you have anything to say, the Majlis has assigned certain duties for the deputies and that is to ask questions and not deface a good and pious man in the eyes of the people, from behind the scenes.

Details Of The Discussions

The first order of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majlis was to review the report of the first round of consultations in the Planning and Budget Commission with regard to the bill for the transformation of the National Topographic Organization.

Messrs. Raja'i-Khorasani, Gharibani, and Banihashemi spoke in opposition to the bill, and Messrs. Ha'eri and Razavi spoke in favor of the bill. After the remarks by the commission reporter and the government representative the said bill did not pass and was rejected.

The last order was the report of the second round of consultations of the judicial and legal commission in regard to the legal plan for the method of investigation of judicial matters related to Majlis deputies.

Article 1—Investigation of allegations related to the past and present activities of the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majlis can be done only through the authorized offices of prosecutors and the courts that are located in Tehran. All warnings, subpoenas or their arrests can be done through the Islamic Consultative Majlis.

Sub Article 1—The above mentioned prosecutors offices and courts can not deputize judicial and law enforcement agencies outside of Tehran to conduct investigations of wrong doings and allegations against deputies.

Sub Article 2—After completion of their term, investigations of allegations and wrongdoings of deputies shall be handled as above.

Sub Article 3—All presently active files in the prosecutors offices and provincial courts, as needed, shall be forwarded to Tehran.

The first article and its sub articles were put to vote and passed.

110 Deputies Ask The Minister Of Justice A Question

Legal and Majlis bureau:

As reported by the public relations office of Islamic Consultative Majlis, more than 110 Majlis deputies requested an explanation from the minister of justice regarding the meeting between the chief of the judicial branch and Mrs Cooper. The text of the deputies' letter is as follows:

The respected Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majlis:

With respect, we were notified through the public media that the respected chief of the judicial branch had a meeting with the wife of the criminal spy of England, Roger Cooper and, in this meeting, has stated his optimism that this spy, who has committed treacheries against the Iranian people, [will] be freed from prison by the pardon of the leadership.

It is requested, based on principle 88 of the Constitution, that the respected minister of justice be invited to come to the Majlis promptly and report to the Majlis the answers of the respected chief of the judicial branch to the following questions:

- 1. What is the reason for the meeting between the highest judicial official with a relative of a person who has been convicted of spying and treachery against Islam and the revolution?
- 2. Why has he initiated the discussion about the issue of pardon?
- 3. Since this meeting has had political implications, was it coordinated with the executive branch?

Explanation: It must be noted that in this regard, also, the letter of the signing deputies was not provided to our reporter. This is the second time that the deputies' notice is being publicized without their signatures. We hope that the leadership of the Islamic Consultative Majlis will cooperate in this regard so that the newspaper can print the complete reports.

Pakistan

Coherent Policy on 'Afghan Issue' Encouraged

BK1610140589 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Decision Time Is Here"]

[Text] There are growing indications that Islamabad is beginning to get its act together over the Afghan issue. Discussions at the top policy level have been going on for the last couple of weeks and now the remarks made by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in a BBC interview are a pointer in the same direction. In the television interview she is reported to have urged Afghan guerrilla groups to try to reach a political settlement, sink their differences and stop looking for a military victory. Provided a coherent and clear policy response can be evolved in dealing with the issue, this will be a welcome departure from the kind of drift that has characterised the government's approach over the last several months. The need for this has never been more apparent. A number of realities have to be squarely faced. And if Pakistan does not do so in time, it may find itself losing or unable to re-gain the initiative over Afghanistan. Worse still, a situation can be envisaged when because of vacillation, hesitation, and indecision, the country could be left holding the 'baby' (over three million Afghan refugees), while the world community focuses its attention elsewhere. Already donor fatigue is evident in the fact that Pakistan has had to make a strong pitch to aid-giving countries over the shortfall being faced in humanitarian assistance to the refugees. The clock, in other words, is ticking away, and the longer the government takes to formulate an adequate and coherent policy approach the more costly and painful decisions will be later.

Moreover any approach that waits first for Washington to lay down the line is fraught with risks quite apart from the fact that Pakistan's policy has to be framed according to our own national interests, not other people's. Over the past few months there has been no more policy clarity in Washington than there has been in Islamabad. In any case, it should be remembered that as far as the Americans are concerned, their policy objective has already been achieved—i.e. withdrawal of Soviet troops. But for Pakistan that was only one of its two policy objectives. The second is still to be attained and it is this that must guide our future policy—the return of refugees and the establishment of peaceful conditions in Afghanistan that can facilitate this.

Developments over the last six months have made it plain that a military victory is not a feasible option (if it ever was). They have also shown that predictions of a quick collapse of the Najibullah regime have not proven to be correct. On the other hand, infighting among the Mujahidin has exacerbated the credibility problem of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), which now exists only in name. The AIG in fact has been an utter failure, unable to either broaden its base or acquire any credibility or legitimacy. The sooner a new policy approach is evolved to deal with these realities, the better. The government also ought to embark on this in an open, public way. Secrecy always breeds suspicion. The government therefore should be doing a lot more explaining to the public over its Afghan policy than it has cared to do until now. The time for dithering is clearly over.

Daily Welcomes Bush Certification on Nuclear Bomb

BK1810125989 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Nuclear Issue and the Presidential Nod"]

[Text] With the final nod of presidential approval in Washington that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear bomb, the decks have been cleared for finalisation of next U.S. financial year's aid package to Pakistan. That

only leaves the two Houses of American Congress to reconcile the minor differences in allocations approved by each earlier in various components of the proposed aid to Pakistan. According to reports, President George Bush who signed the certification regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme on Friday night, had based his judgement "on all available evidence" in this regard. Although American assistance to Pakistan currently forms part of a six-year 4.02 billion dollar package, such annual certification by the U.S. president is a statutory requirement before the finalisation of each year's aid chunk. The Pressler Amendment prohibits U.S. aid to any country that possesses or is suspected of possessing a nuclear explosive device. American president's certification thus becomes obligatory.

Irrespective of the immediate relevance of the U.S. president's certification in the aid context, the confirmation by Mr Bush should clear a lot of unnecessary confusion about Pakistan's nuclear programme. The American president's certification is a most responsible act of formal commitment in black and white. It has once again vindicated Pakistan's consistent position that the country does not possess a nuclear device. Unfortunately, the question has been politicised and used by various quarters to cast doubts about the peaceful nature of Pakistan's efforts to acquire nuclear knowhow. Atomic energy is not just another name for the atom bomb. There can be no justification for anybody's grudging Pakistan's efforts to make use of nuclear energy to meet the country's growing demands in a number of perfectly peaceful fields like power generation.

As for the question of the atomic weapon, Pakistan has consistently adhered to the principle of nonproliferation. Islamabad has never shied away from signing the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] if India—with a demonstrated capability to produce the bomb—also agreed to do so. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has only recently reiterated the country's approach in this regard. Ms Benazir Bhutto has also made it clear that Pakistan could not under any circumstances be expected to renounce unilaterally the nuclear option. It is a welcome development indeed that the American Administration at the highest level has proceeded to accord recognition to Pakistan's principle position.

'Mystery' Over Death of Narcotics Official Noted

BK1610160889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Karachi, Oct 16 (AFP)—Mystery continued here Monday over the death of the regional director of the Narcotics Control Board. Altaf Ali Khan died Sunday, one day after he had recovered 60 kilograms of brown heroin from a truck which had previously slipped through checkpoints in various parts of the country.

Officials and relatives maintain that Mr Khan committed suicide by shooting himself in the chest, but legal sources here say his death could have been related to his actions against drug smugglers. Just before his death, Mr Khan had been briefing newsmen on his first major haul since his recent appointment to the position, but left abruptly saying "something urgent has to be dealt with at home," reporters said. He did not give the impression of a man who would commit sucide within an hour, they added.

No autopsy has been carried out on the body, apparently due to the refusal of Mr Khan's relatives, and so the many questions about his death remain.

Recently, a senior customs intelligence officer was shot and wounded when he arrested a narcotics dealer involved in the real estate business here.

Bomb Explodes in Bus; Eight Reported Dead

BK1810132089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 18 (AFP)—At least eight people were killed and 30 wounded when a powerful bomb exploded in a passenger bus Wednesday, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported.

It said the bus was carrying passengers from Wazirabad to Gujrat 150 kilometres southeast of here when the bomb exploded on the approach to Sialkot town, bordering India, and burst into flames. The bus was soon reduced to ashes, the agency said. Sources contacted by phone said the blast from the bomb, believed to be a timed-device, was heard several kilomters away.

Bodies were blown into pieces and it was difficult to identify the victims, they said. People from the adjoining areas joined the rescue operation and recovered eight charred and mutilated bodies, some of them women and children.

Doctors in Wazirabad hospital feared the death toll may rise with the condition of a number of survivors critical. The explosion is the second within 24 hours and latest in a new wave of bombings in the country's ethnic unrest.

A bomb in the children ward of a Medical College Hospital in the southern post city of Karachi killed one and wounded four Tuesday when the Sindhi nationalists were observing a "black day" to protest the recent arrest of their leader G.M. Syed on alleged anti-state activities.

Police seized explosive devices in northwestern Peshawar the same day, which they suspected was to be used on a passenger train, newspapers reported. Another explosion over the weekend partly damaged Saudi Airlines office in the Punjab capital Lahore, but caused no casualties. Police said no arrests had been made.

Fireworks Blamed for Explosion

BK1810150289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Seven people, including 5 children, were killed and 25 others injured when fireworks caught fire and exploded in a passenger bus in Wazirabad today. The

injured have been admitted to the Tehsil Hospital in Wazirabad, while the seriously injured have been transferred to the district headquarters hospital in Gujranwala. A police spokesman said that the fireworks were ignited by a burning cigarette and later exploded.

Bus 'Completely Gutted'

BK1810154889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Eight people were killed and 30 seriously injured when a powerful bomb exploded in a bus near Wazirabad today, according to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN. The cause of the blast could not be ascertained immediately. The injured persons, including women and children, were admitted to the Tehsil Hospital in Wazirabad. The bus which was proceeding from Sialkot to Gujrat caught fire and was completely gutted. A bomb disposal squad member said that the bomb exploded when explosives kept in the bus caught fire. An immediate inquiry into the incident has been ordered.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed profound sorrow and grief over the irreparable loss of precious lives as a result of the explosion in the bus. She has expressed deep sympathy with and offered her condolences to the bereaved families and also prayed for the early recovery of those injured in the blast.